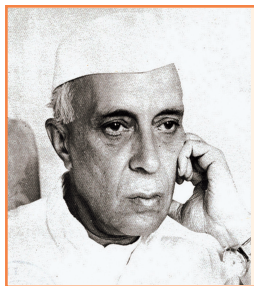




Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



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.

Jawahar



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. Rama Baru, Chairperson, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health. School of Social Sciences



Bhoomika: Considering the fact that not many people are not aware about the discipline called Social Medicine, I think, the most apt opening question for this interview would be 'what is social medicine'?

Prof. Baru: The Centre was set up outside the confines of a medical college so that it could enrich itself through wider interaction with the

various disciplines of natural and social sciences. Over the past 30 years, the Centre has acquired the rich experience of evolving problem-oriented interdisciplinary academic programmes in addition to building an active research base. At the same time, efforts have also been made at constructing institutional links with policy making.

Under the overall objective of creating academic programmes for making health services meaningful to the people of the country, the CSMCH set out its objective to understand the health problems and health needs of Indian people with a view to find workable solutions for them in the existing social structure and to examine the social structure itself to delineate the structural constraints which limit the scope of health interventions. The task obviously requires an inter-disciplinary approach involving disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, psychology, economics, history, politics, demography, statistics and public administration, apart from the disciplines that are traditionally included in public health. It was for this reason that the Centre was located in the School of Social Sciences.

Bhoomika: How is this Centre equipped for such study?

Prof. Baru: This is a unique centre because it is located in the School of Social Sciences and not attached to a medical college as is the case with Preventive and Social Medicine departments.

The mandate of the Centre was to focus on the health needs and problems of the poor and marginalized. Over the years the effort has been to build an interdisciplinary approach to studying health problems with a faculty that comprises of doctors and social scientists. There are two programmes that are offered by the Centre. The Masters in Public Health (MPH/PhD) that is open to doctors and nurses and Masters in Philosophy (MPhil/PhD) for social scientists.

Bhoomika: Does this Centre advise the government on policies related to health services in some way?

Prof. Baru: Over the years the faculty has been engaged with government programmes and policy making process. Several faculty members have played an advisory role on the task force groups of the National Rural Health Mission. To give you an idea of our faculty involvement, members of the faculty have been involved with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Indian Council for Medical Research; Population Commission; National Institute of Medical Statistics; National Institute for Disaster Management; National Health System Research Centre; Ministry of Human Resource Development and also state governments.

Bhoomika: What are the general areas of research in this Centre?

Prof. Baru: Our students and faculty have been engaging with different fields of research. The broad themes that are being researched include health service systems research; social epidemiology; nutrition and health with a special focus on the vulnerable; population policies; women's health; environment and health including worker's health; democratisation and decentralisation as alternative strategies for the delivery of health care; urban health; health legislation; Bio-ethics; indigenous systems and primary health care; International trade, legislation and health.

Movement

New Deans/ Chairpersons

- ◆ Prof. Indira Ghosh, reappointed as Dean, School of Computational and Integrative Sciences
- ◆ Prof. Sudha Bhattacharya as Dean, School of Environmental Sciences
- ◆ Prof. Parul Dave Mukherjee as Dean, School of Arts & Aesthetics

- ◆ Prof. Krishnaswamy Nachimuthu as Chairperson, Centre of Indian Languages, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies
- ◆ Prof. Madhu Sahni as Chairperson, Centre of German Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies
- ◆ Prof. Sabaree Mitra as Chairperson, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies

Movement

- ◆ Dr. A.M. Lynn, Director, Communication & Information Services (CIS)
 - ◆ Prof. Sarswati Raju, Centre for the Study of Regional Development as Director, Women's Studies Programme, School of Social Sciences
 - ◆ Prof. Geetha B. Nambissan, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies as Honorary Director of Programme for Studies on Discrimination and Exclusion, School of Social Sciences
 - ◆ Prof. N. Kamala, Centre of French and Francophone Studies as Coordinator, Language Lab Complex, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies
 - ◆ Prof. Utsa Patnaik, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences
 - ◆ Prof. Anjan Mukherji, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences
 - ◆ Shri P.K. Karunakaran, Assistant Registrar (D), Narmada Hostel
 - ◆ Dr. M.M. Kunju, Documentation Officer, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies
 - ◆ Shri H.S. Sukhija, Section Officer, Koyana Hostel
 - ◆ Shri Dalip Kumar, Semi Professional Assistant, Central Library
 - ◆ Sh. Dhiraj Singh, Library Attendant, Central Library
 - ◆ Shri Chander Prakash, Driver, Estate Branch
 - ◆ Shri Inder Mani, Cook, Ganga Hostel
 - ◆ Shri Vishal Kumar, Junior Assistant-cum-Typist, SC/ST Cell
- Administration**
- ◆ Dr. Manorama Tripathi as Deputy Librarian, Central Librrary
 - ◆ Sh. Pritam Ruhil as Office Attendant
 - ◆ Sh. Ananda Mahananda as Office Attendant
- Retirements/Resignations**
- ◆ Prof. Balveer Arora, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences

Achievements/Awards



◆ **Prof. Birendra Nath Mallick**, School of Life Sciences has been selected for the award of J.C.Bose Fellowship by Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology.



◆ **Prof. Saumitra Mukherjee**, School of Environmental Sciences has been appointed from India as a member of Excellence in Geophysical Education Award Committee, AGU, USA.



◆ **Dr. Sanjay Bhardwaj**, South Asian Studies, Centre for South Central Southeast Asian & South West Pacific Studies, School of International Studies has been selected as a recipient of '**the ASIA Fellows Awards 2010-11**' under the fellowship program administered by the Asian Scholarship Foundation, Bangkok. This study is based on "Bangladeshi's Perspective on India: A study of water sharing issues since 1996" at Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.



◆ **Ms. Sipra Sagrika**, Research Scholar, Centre for the Study of Social System, School of Social Sciences, represented India in the "Asian Citizens Assembly 2010," Bengaluru. It comprised of Asian Youth Assembly, Asian Intergenerational Assembly and Silk Route Art and Culture Festival. It was an initiative of UN- Habitat, CCS-Peking University, VEDIKE and Global Citizens for Sustainable Development. She also presented her research paper titled "Towards a United, Peaceful and Sustainable Asia: The Needs and the Ways Forward."

Campus Activities

Summer Tennis Tournament

Sports Office organized a Summer Tennis Tournament on 24--26 May, 2010 at the University Tennis Courts. Competition was held in the following categories:

- a) Open Singles
- b) Open Doubles
- c) Boys Singles (Faculty children)
- d) Mini Singles

A total of 42 players took part in the competitions. Prizes were given away by the Dean of Students, Prof. V.K. Jain. Amongst others Prof. R. Prasad, Rector also graced the occasion on the finals.

Damayanti V. Tambay
Dy. Director,
Physical Education

Yoga Wellness Series

JNU Yoga Kendra conducted 'Yoga Wellness Series' from 17 May to 30 June, 2010 at the Sports Stadium. There were many participants who attended different camps and appreciated the unique Yogic science. All the participants were from the JNU community only. The camps that were organized by the Yoga Kendra included:

- (1) Wellness camp for women
- (2) Yoga awareness camp for children
- (3) Yoga and alternative therapy
- (4) Camp on

relaxation (5) Camp on acupressure & (6) Camp on obesity.

At the end of each camp two prizes to most regular and disciplined participants and certificate of participation to all were distributed. It was a special experiment by Yoga Kendra which was much appreciated and well received.

Umesh Babu
Yoga Instructor

Summer Trek 2010 at Dhumdharkandi Pass

The JNU Mountaineering Club conducted a 13 days Summer trek to Dhumdharkandi Pass at an altitude of 5300 mts in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand from May 28 to June 9, 2010, under the banner of JNU Sports Club. The group was led by Sushant Saini, Convener of JNUMC, assisted by Rishika Chauhan comprising of 12 participants/students from different schools. The participants were selected after a rigorous 15 days physical training conducted at the JNU sports stadium and a medical board arranged by the sports office.

The Dhumdharkandi pass is located around 70 kms from Gangotri in the picturesque Great Himalayan range and is characterised by frequent snowfalls. The trek began at Jhala, a beautiful village along Sian gad and goes through Tangun, Kyarkoti and Odar.

Sushant Saini,
Convener, JNUMC

Seminar/Conference

National seminar on “Role of Consumer Disputes Redressal System in India: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities”

A two day National seminar on “Role of Consumer Disputes Redressal System in India: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities” by Professor M.C. Paul, GAE, School of Social Sciences, JNU in co-operation with Professor Bupinder Zutshi, CSRD, SSS was organized. The Hon'ble Minister, Prof. K.V. Thomas, MOS, Consumer Affairs, consented to be the Chief Guest since the topic of the seminar was very close to his heart

but could not do so. As he said, “nevertheless, in view of some unavoidable, unforeseen, urgent and important Parliamentary commitment I was unable to avail the opportunity”. All the participants were thankful to the Hon'ble Minister for his “best wishes and compliments for the successful conduct of the seminar”.

Seminar/Conference



About 93 participants attended the National seminar for two days from all over the country belonging to faculty & students from IIPA, universities like Pondicherry, Delhi University, JNU, Government of India, Judiciary, Senior Advocates, NGOs/VCOs, Mass Media. The participants included Justice J.D. Kapoor, former President of Delhi State Consumer Commission, Hon'ble Justice R.K. Batta, Member NCDRC, Shri Anupam Dasgupta, Hon'ble Member, NCDRC, Mrs. Rajyalaxmi Rao, former member of NCDRC, Dr. P.K. Agrawal, former Principal Secretary, Department Consumer Affairs, Government of West Bengal, Sri Debasis Bagchi, former Inspector General of Police, Dr. Prem Lata, Member West District Fora, Mr. P.A. Krishnamoorthy (GTZ), Patrick Von Braunmuhl, GTZ (Germany), Dr. Satya Sharma (Malaysia), Prof. Pranab Banerjee, Prof. Sheetal Kapoor, Prof. P. Moorthy, Prof. Meenu Agrawal, Advocate Rajeev Saxena, Advocate Apurva A. Dave, Prof. Savita Hanspal, Dr. S.K. Kejriwal, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Dr. O.P. Samy, Mr. Hitoshi Ota (Japan), Brig. Manaktala, Capt. Dasgupta, Col. Angad Singh, Col. Dua, Mr. Pankaj Singh, Advocate Biraja Mahapatra, Advocate Atulesh Kumar, Prof. Hari Dev Goyal, Prof. M.C. Paul et al and many students and faculty members and concerned Aam consumers.

Welcoming the participants Prof. M.C. Paul, the Co-ordinator of the National Seminar, underlined the fact that this seminar was organized as a mark of respect to the true spirit of "UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection (UNGCP)" issued 25 years ago in 1985. It was nonetheless a bold step that made some of the world leaders to take initiative in regards to the enactment of special Act to protect consumer rights from the free market activities. This year marked the Silver Jubilee for issuance of the UN Guidelines. This National seminar was a humble attempt to pay a tribute to that spirit of the UN Guidelines. Based on the UN guidelines, the Government of India had taken the right initiative in the Parliament and enacted a landmark Act called The Consumer Rights Protection Act of 1986. The basic purpose of this welfare Act is to exclusively protect the consumers from the various types of market exploitation.

Prof. M.C. Paul also expressed his extreme happiness on receiving an overwhelming response from all the participants gathered in this seminar. It proved that Consumer Rights issues were important even in this global era when marketers of all kinds of products and services are on the prowl alluring the gullible consumers in different ways, often without much respect for the consumer rights. He, further pointed out that "the market exploitation is rampant and the unsuspecting consumers often fall trapped in the fine lines of deals offered by the marketers. This is particularly true for the people belonging to lower socioeconomic strata of our multi-lingual and multi-cultural society who are not even aware of consumer rights given in the Consumer Protection Act, and how to protect them. Even among the educated sections the awareness level is not high. This is pathetic when several dubious marketers do not have much regard for consumer rights unlike in the developed countries. Secondly, when the informed-consumers approach Consumer Fora for redressal of disputes as a last resort as per the Consumer Protection Act, they expect delivery of quick justice on merit because it is a critical component of consumer rights protection. But the frustrating experiences the consumers undergo in the Fora do not augur well; this is in spite of many success stories in its credit. This is probably due to several inherent weaknesses. For example, in the absence of adequate knowledge and skills of consumer jurisprudence, many administrators of justice inappropriately dispense justice and thereby undermine the spirit of CP Act. If this is the story then something must be wrong somewhere and that's why the 3-tier Fora is not always in a position to serve its role effectively. The consumer Fora has tremendous responsibilities to uphold the spirit of the Act. It becomes more frustrating when the consumer victims approach the justice delivery system with good spirit but fail to get appropriate justice. It is in this scenario that they suffer the double victimization syndrome: once in the market and, second in the hands of the fora. I strongly feel that consumer complainants have every right to get proper justice since they are also consumers of justice. When cases of consumer disputes are delayed and/or are not adjudicated properly on merit, it unfortunately makes them hesitant to approach the fora. This is not that some good things are not happening, but some good things have also gone wrong at many places. We know that the 3-tier Consumer Disputes Redressal system is supposed to take pro-consumer approach and adjudicate the matter on merit".

This seminar was organized to understand the various issues, challenges and opportunities of Consumer Disputes Redressal system in India; and how best we can find answers to some of these vexing questions so that the agonies of the consumer

Seminar/Conference

victims are minimized, if not eradicated. Prof. Paul said that there were many questions that needed collective thinking and wisdom to find answers to many problems and challenges the consumers face day-in and day-out in market situations where the growing market violations are encountered. He also felt that many diverse issues and challenges demanded fresh thinking and flexible approach, and for this there is a need for sincere debate and serious discussion by the participants.

He also reminded that "Since 1991, with the market liberalization policy of the government, thousands of profit-hungry marketers including the dubious/ unscrupulous ones have been entering the market arena who hardly care even to recognize, forget about respecting the 'upobhokta adhikar' (the consumer rights). Therefore, under this circumstance, whether consumer is the 'King' or a slave of the market is a BIG question. The unsuspecting and gullible consumers and particularly, those belonging to under-privileged and poorest sections of our society with low purchasing power are the worst victims of unbridled market injustice and exploitation. It seems our 'consumer rights are under siege'".

He further added that "the scenario gets uglier and pathetic when millions of our diverse consumers of our multilingual and multicultural nation are not even aware of Upobhokta Adhikar rightfully given by an Act of Parliament. The 'jago grahak jago' slogan incurring billions could hardly empower the consumers to save them from the continuous market injustice and exploitation. I believe we also need to forcefully make the 'Vyaparis also Jago' with a slogan like: 'Jago Vyapari Jago' to respect consumers' rights. Otherwise the business people will have the last laugh and go on doing 'business' as it is!! We also know millions of educated sections are not aware of their rights; how to protect; and where to go for redressal when their rights are violated in the market. Of course, for many people, ignorance becomes bliss. Some may perceive it as a sheer fate when they get cheated, or a part of karmaphal (to pay a price for past misdeed). It is this perception that empowers the business class to pro-actively violate the law of the land. I don't have any panacea but I am sure in one thing that with our collective will and wisdom, we may at least come out with certain remedies to protect our rights as consumers against the dubious but powerful marketers. We require a new mindset and an out-of-box thinking and whenever necessary involving the civil society in a big way to check the menace of market injustice. We need to walk together as partners to change the present, to move to the future and reach out to the people who need it. I believe the challenges of consumer rights violations can be addressed only when we try to think differently together and voice our concerns to the authorities with constructive suggestions to appropriately amend the CPA,

if required. Along with policies we also require honest efforts to implement these. Of course it is not a one way road. In other words, policy reform alone cannot be the only solution unless it is seen to work on the ground".

Thereafter, the Keynote Address was delivered by Justice J.D. Kapoor, Former President, Delhi State Consumer Commission. Justice Kapoor has been in the forefront of consumer rights protection championing the cause of consumers. He delivered a very enlightening and engrossing speech covering many issues and challenges faced by the Consumer Disputes Redressal system in India. He has practical judicial experience over the years while solving umpteen number of cases, including the complex ones, and delivering with a zeal pro-consumer judgments by rightly interpreting the C.P. Act of 1986 to not only protect consumer rights but also strengthen them.

He began his address with the statement that "An enlightened person is the empowered person". He said that India was first and foremost country to enact such a comprehensive Act called the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. He underlined that it was a good endeavour to provide full protection to the consumers, but he was not satisfied with the way consumer courts are functioning. "Judicial process is getting complex leading to harassment and suffering; the consumer victims don't feel encouraged to go to the court. Thousand and thousands of cases are pending for the last 15 years and because of this consumers are increasingly losing faith in quasi-judicial mechanism". He was also not happy with the way laws are being interpreted. He said before giving any judgment, each and every section of the law should be considered with elaborated meaning to effectively use for delivering judgment and thereby protecting consumer rights, and every kind of injury such as physical, mental, psychological etc. faced by the consumer should be accounted and compensated.

Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor of JNU, in his address as chairperson congratulated Prof. Paul and expressed happiness for holding the seminar at a crucial juncture of India's neo-liberal agenda-based business activities. He showed his concern for the difficulties consumers face in the market places. He highlighted how unscrupulous traders day-in and day-out were indulging in malpractices causing tremendous harm to aam consumers. He further expressed his unhappiness on the misleading advertisement of 'Jago Grahak Jago' which "is not cutting much ice". He stated that several of his studies done as an Expert in several Committees as well as his experience show how the benefit/relief in terms of Sales tax/Excise tax relief is supposed to be percolated down to the end users extended by the government in the Budgets, for the

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consumers are often disregarded by the businessmen or the producers. All the tax benefits are rather taken away by the business people. He went on to add that "Indian market economy is becoming more exploitative; no doubt under globalization they offer wider choices but do not always ensure what they propagate, and they show reluctance to protect consumer rights".

He was also unhappy with the way the advertisement strategies increasingly adopted are actually misleading the consumers due to which many vulnerable consumers fall into their trap, and they throw many challenges to consumers in the market to protect their rights. "It is here the role of Consumer Fora finds its centrality and is vital. But unfortunately the quasi-judicial bodies like consumer fora are not in a position to expeditiously reduce the sufferings of consumers due to certain inherent weaknesses and challenges of piling up of cases with the rising awareness level of the consumers. One of the challenges is delay in disposing of cases. It is a major challenge. Opening Mediation Cell with the help of qualified mediators can definitely be a way-out under the present circumstances to help the aam consumers. We need to take this issue up for further deliberations and discourse".

Nevertheless, he strongly felt that the consumer rights education and awareness movements are the need of the hour. Earlier Prof. Bhattacharya had suggested that there was a great role of NGOs, academicians, and civil society to generate awareness and knowledge by organizing awareness drive, undertaking interdisciplinary studies, by initiating academic

course, organize seminars like this respectively so as to make the society and the people aware about the violations of consumer rights and how to safeguard them.

Last but not the least, the Vote of Thanks was extended by Dr. B. Zutshi. Thereafter the Technical sessions took off and were conducted by experts, academicians, several legal experts including the Judicial officers from NCDRC who conducted Panel discussion on 13 March for the benefit of participants who had several questions to field to get answers from each one of them.

In fact, the seminar participants discussed and debated on a host of issues related to consumer rights protection in India and the role of Consumer Disputes Redressal System; how the world's best Consumer Disputes Redressal System in our country is gradually becoming ineffective/dysfunctional and thereby losing aam consumers' confidence. All these lively discussions and discourses in a friendly atmosphere made them come out with some pragmatic recommendations for the government as well as for the quasi-judicial bodies like Consumer Fora, State Commission, NCDRC, Central and State governments, if necessary, by amending the unique Consumer Protection Act, 1986, to attain its very object and keeping its spirit intact.

**Sri Rajesh, Research Scholar,
Centre for the Study of Regional Development,
SSS**

Seminar on “New Era in Flow Cytometry”

Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility (AIRF) organized a seminar on “New Era in Flow Cytometry” on 1 July, 2010 at AIRF. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Aparna Sapra, Application Specialist of the Company Accuri Cytometers and it was attended by the JNU faculty and user researchers.



It was an interactive two-session seminar with a presentation and group discussion/ Questions & Answers followed by a wet demo for all users. The presentation focused on the key innovations in the Accuri C6 model of Flow cytometer and its applications in the area of flow cytometry and cell analysis. Sized to fit on any benchtop, Accuri C6 Flow Cytometer makes a useful research tool available to a much wider range of life scientists.

Conventional flow cytometers are expensive, large, high-maintenance instruments that require extensive training to use correctly. As a result, most flow cytometry users must share an instrument or submit samples to a core facility for analysis, a less than ideal situation for users with a high number of samples.

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The important feature of this system cited in this seminar included single switch for power on, self-cleaning system and alerts when fluids need attention, allowing the use of a range of sample tube configurations, ability to meter sample fluid uptake and automatically calculate the events per microliter, allowing the user to independently adjust speed of the sample uptake and core stream diameter for a variety of cell sizes, with

a provision of six full decades of dynamic range, ability to obviate the need to adjust voltage and gain settings and with an USB Plug-n-Play on a standard PC or laptop making it user friendly and benchtop.

**Tulika Prasad,
Coordinator & Assistant Professor, AIRF**

International Interdisciplinary Conference on 'Language, Culture and Civilization: East and West'

The School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies organized an International Conference in collaboration with the Davis and Elkins College, West Virginia, USA from July 20 to 22, 2010. Ten Indian scholar and forty Scholars from USA and West European Countries took part in the three day deliberations which began with the registration of the delegates on July 20. The following day, the conference was inaugurated by the Dean of the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Prof. Sankar Basu, and Dean of the International Programmes of the Davis and Elkins College, USA, Prof. Chandana Chakrabarti.



The first session began with the paper on “hatha and tantric yoga” by Prof. Ellen Golberg of Queen's University, Belfast and he talked about what cognitive sciences tell us about it. It was followed by the presentation by Dr. Alia Zardini of the University of Aberdeen, Scotland on “Truth about Contradictions”. This session was chaired by Prof. James Stiles, West Chester University, USA. After the break, Prof. Kishor Chakarabarti of Davis and Elkins College gave a keynote address on Hindu Ethics and compared it with the western model of ethics. His address was followed by talk of philosophy by Prof. Gordon Haist of University of South Carolina at Beaufort in which talked about 'the Call of Place and Non-Place'. The last keynote address was by Prof. Sankar Basu on “The Role of Culture and Civilization of Russia in Studying Russian Literature”.

In the afternoon session Dr Akhlaq Ahmad Khan presented his paper on "Religion and Intercivilizational Relations" and he cited examples from India, Iran and other nations. This presentation was followed by the talk on "Technology collaboration between China and India as a form of cross-cultural communication" by Prof. Harold Sjursen, New York University Polytechnic Institute. He argued that both India and China over a period of time have been successfully engaging in cross cultural communication. The next two papers by Ms M V Lakshmi and Ms Janashruti Chandra of the Centre of Japanese, Korean and Northeast Asian Studies, JNU, focused on Japanese language and culture. The last paper of the day was presented by Dr Amitash Ojha of International Institute of Information Technology on “Cultural Background and Visual Metaphor”. He gave a power point presentation on how visual metaphors having cultural background influence the mind of the people.

The session on 22 July began with two presentations on Spanish literature by Miss Lovey Srivastava and Prof. Indrani Mukherjee of JNU. It was followed by five arguments on the importance of caste system by Prof. James Stiles, West Chester University. After the first session Prof. Chandana Chakabarti chaired a round table on Society, Culture and Religion of India in which scholars and students from Davis and Elkins College discussed various aspects of Indian society, culture and religion. The round table was followed by presentation on “Civilizing Mission of Gandhi: Lessons for both, East and West” by Chandrakala Padia of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

The afternoon session began with the presentation on “Meaning of Culture and Religion in the Contemporary World” by Dr Meeta Narain enlightening talk by Dr Aviator Shulman of Til Aviv University, Til Aviv on “Reinterpreting the Buddha's Enlightenment: Nāgārjuna's Ratnāvalī”. After giving details of the Ratnāvalī he argued that the scholar in modern times have misunderstood its meaning. Dr Abhijit Karkun gave his

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presentation on “Comparative Francophone and Indian Literature: Trends and Approaches” citing examples from contemporary Indian literatures. In the same session Prof. Subhadra Mitra Channa of the University of Delhi gave her presentation on “Mystical Language and Beliefs in Himalayan Communities” which was based on her study in various Himalayan regions.

In the last session of the conference four scholars from India, USA and Poland gave their presentations. Maria Marczewsk, Marie-Curie Skadowska University, Poland talked about

modern discourse in the East and West. While Dr Hari Narayana, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Jammu gave his presentation on “Concepts, Language and Relativity”. Dr Vinita Chandra of Banaras Hindu University talked about creative leisure and its meaning in India and the west. At the end of the conference, Dr Abhijit Karkun proposed a vote of thanks for the participants, volunteers and university administration for providing all kinds of support to organize this conference.

**Rizwanur Rahman, Convenor of the Conference,
Centre of Arabic and African Studies, SLL&CS**

Weekly Seminar on “Indian and Global Discourses on Religion and Secularism”

The speaker and his work: My book, 'The Ideology of Religious Studies' (OUP, New York, 2000) shows how the concept of religion as defined by the social sciences has proved a problematic category. It is difficult to define and translate into non-European languages. Religionists, theologians, philosopher's historians, anthropologists and sociologist have all debated these issues. My current research interest involves analysis of discourses on religion and the

secular/politics/state and other similar constructs; history, theory and method in the study of religion and orientalism as a theory and problems of representing others. I been also been studying Japanese culture and religion as well as the subaltern conversion movement-Ambekar Buddhism in India.

**V. Sujatha, Chairperson,
Centre for the Study of Social Systems, SSS**

Talk on “Intersubjectivity and the Extended Mind”

The Centre for Philosophy, School of Social Sciences, organized a talk by Nivedita Gangopadhyay on 6 August, 2010. Nivedita Gangopadhyay is a Fellow of the Centre for Subjectivity Research in the Department of Philosophy, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. The notion of Extended Mind has received considerable attention in recent times among Philosophers, Psychologists, Neuroscientists and Cognitive Scientists. The view claims that it is arbitrary to say that the mind is contained only within the boundaries of the skull. The separation between the mind, the body, and the environment is seen as an unprincipled distinction. Because external objects

play a significant role in aiding cognitive processes, the mind and the environment act as “coupled system”. This coupled system can be seen as a complete cognitive system of its own. In this manner, the mind is extended into the external world. If that is the case how do we account for subjectivity and intersubjectivity? – This is the question that Dr. Gangopadhyay dealt with in the talk. The talk was well – attended by students from different schools as well as by faculty members.

**By Mandipta Sen, Seminar Coordinator
Centre for Philosophy, SSS**

GAE Special Lecture on “Education and Modernity in India”

The Group of Adult Education (GAE) of the School of Social Sciences (SSS) organized a special lecture by an eminent historian and educationist Prof. Nita Kumar on 25 August, 2010 in the committee Hall of SSS-I on the topic "Education and Modernity in India".

Prof. Nita Kumar is an eminent historian and social anthropologist specializing in the area of educational historiography, modernity and schooling; and has written six books, the latest called. "The Politics of Gender, Community and Modernities: Essays on Education in India" (Oxford, 2007),

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and numerous articles. She is the Brown Chair of South Asian Studies at Claremont McKenna College, California, USA.

Speaking about “Education and Modernity in India”, Prof. Nita Kumar looked at the contemporary scene of schooling in India, and briefly at its history, to discuss what kind of modernity we might desire and the role that schools would play towards achieving this modernity. She posited two perspectives on 'modernity': one as performance, and the other as a reality incompletely achieved. Both these perspectives were discussed at two levels: (a) discursive (or the political) and (b) the empirical reality (e.g. technological).

In the lecture, she also discussed in detail two little popularized subjects: (a) the “technology” of modernity, comprised by a certain use of space and time, and rituals and activities; and (b) the politics of modernity: what childhood and adulthood is understood to be; and what science, history and tradition mean in relation to the formation of childhood and

Sixth J.P. Naik Memorial Lecture

The Educational Records Research Unit (ERRU) organised the Sixth J.P. Naik Memorial Lecture, an annual feature since 2005, to commemorate eminent educationist Late J.P. Naik, who founded the ERRU in 1971. The Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Javeed Alam, Chairman, Indian Council for Social Science Research, on 30 August 2010, in the Committee Room of SSS-I. The session was chaired by Professor Nandu Ram, Dean, School of Social Sciences and attended by a large audience of scholars.

The topic addressed by Professor Alam was 'On Marginalisation: Oppression and Democracy'. He organised the Lecture under five sections, beginning with a theoretical poser. He observed that many communities in India like the Adivasis, Dalits or sections of Muslims, and particularly the women from these communities are commonly referred as “marginalised” as they live a life of extreme deprivation and are often victims of discrimination and at times of violence. But, being discriminated against and living with deprivations do not necessarily make a people or communities marginalised. Struggles of the oppressed and exploited in democracy give a voice, which takes a centre stage in popular contestations, and thus becomes a guarantee against marginalisation. “Marginal(ised)” people in some way or the other are the makers of history in a democracy. He argued that Muslims have not been marginalised in India except, perhaps, in Gujarat and further asserted that no community could be compelled to become marginalised in India.

adulthood. She discussed how schools have a mandate to create a modern citizen, and how they work towards it, and how the family works vis-à-vis the schools.

By considering educational technologies, discourses and practices, and the emerging historiography of Indian childhood and children, she provided a more rounded and inclusive picture of what education really meant earlier and means now. The Lecture session was chaired by Prof. Nandu Ram, presently the Director of GAE as well as Dean (SSS). Dr. Ajay Kumar (Associate Professor) first welcomed Prof. Nita Kumar and the distinguished audience of about 110 people consisting of eminent teachers and students from various centres and schools of JNU and outside. At the end Prof. Nandu Ram as the Director (GAE) and Dean (SSS) thanked the speakers and audience for their enthusiastic and participatory presence.

**Ajay Kumar, Associate Professor
Group of Adult Education, SSS**

Professor Alam noted that democratic struggles and mobilisations provide a constant countervailing force to the coercion of the ruling classes, and the state therefore always vacillates, but ultimately looks towards the ruling classes as to how far to go in making concessions. Marginalisation is essentially a condition of voicelessness, yet history is full of evidence of the marginalised wresting the most important “welfare rights” from the state establishment. The universal franchise was the result of such struggles, joined later on by the women's suffrage movement.

Many important changes in Indian democracy have been the results of struggles of the exploited and oppressed, notable among them being a remarkable change in the composition of the Indian electorate. As is widely known, in many regions of the country, especially in north India, Dalits were barred from



access to public institutions in the past. Today they are in a position to form governments in one of the largest states of India. Democracy, whatever be the nature of its infirmities, is the site of mobilisations and struggles, and therefore the space where one can celebrate the strength of the vulnerable people.

Referring to the differences in the philosophy of democracy Professor Alam mentioned that Rousseau believed that the will of the people could be formed in conditions of equality. In India people are in a situation which is a radicalised version of Rousseau's covenant even if all the outcomes are uncertain in terms of resolution. This, he observed, is the dialectics within the working of democracy, the contradiction between the state and politics. This contradiction between the structure and the process always needs to be kept in mind in any analyses of the problems of women or Dalits or Muslims or Adivasis.

Professor Alam highlighted the role of the ordinary people in the Indian context. He questioned the propagation that democracy in India is a "gift" to the people from its constitution makers and other enlightened leaders, and that the universal franchise is "an act of faith" in the people. He contested and repudiated this predisposition about democracy in India by referring to developments in Indian history. India saw one of the longest fought out dynamic freedom movements anywhere in the world and a significant feature of the national movement was the radical urge among the people within it, and the constant pressure it exerted to come to the forefront. The anti-colonial movement was used by peasants, much to the discomfort of Gandhi and other leaders who advised them not to do so with little effect, to wage anti-feudal struggles to seek substantive democratic gains. Similarly, the unending quest of the most wretched in India, the Dalits, to overcome untouchability and other such disabling conditions, was another significant facet of the national movement.

All of this history found an expression in the formulation of the socialist trends of thought within the national movement and forced a constant dialogue within the anti-colonial movement. After independence, however, within the dialogue of struggle the class compulsions became pronounced. The bourgeoisie gained in importance and became a force to reckon with because what it represented was viewed as the future of India by the political leadership. Professor Alam pointed out that though the change took place in essence from the ritual domain to the secular, the struggles within democracy in India still remain primarily for equality. This is the focal feature of the dialectics of contradiction between the state and politics in India. He also noted that everywhere else before India, adult franchise was a result of small, incremental additions. But the logic of anti-colonial mass movements in India was such that it

followed a different course. The Indian covenant was a radicalised version of Rousseau's covenant, which directed the removal of every obstacle in the way of equality. Creation of equality therefore became the founding principle of democracy in India, the quest for which remains a driving force in the survival of democracy in India.

In trying to establish a link between past radical movements and the present politics, Professor Alam noted two important features of the post-1860s peasant rebellions as compared to earlier radical movements. One, they comprised equally of the Hindu and Muslim masses, and two, the entire leadership came from within the ranks of the peasantry. Also, the individual peasant was the same person, but collectively a new peasantry had emerged in India under the new mode of production taking shape in India then. Similarly, the 1880s were the period of the "coming to age" in an all round sense of the modern elite. The elites from among the Hindus had by this time become socially established and were taking over the political leadership whereas the Muslim elite was only beginning to take shape and trying to get a foothold in society. This unequal ascendance of the elites based on the religious affiliations was to have far-reaching repercussions in India.

Professor Alam pointed to the important connection between the spontaneous peasant militant upsurges and the organised mass movements during the Freedom Struggle under Gandhi's leadership later. He noted that Gandhi was the only leader who made a sustained effort at closing the gap between the masses and the elites and succeeded in a big way in involving the peasant masses in the freedom struggle. However, he too involved the peasantry in a way where they were not taken as differentiated in class terms but rather as a homogeneous whole and as synonymous with the best that the village represented. He ignored the rise of modern landlordism as well as the consequent pauperisation of sections of the peasantry, and the class pulls these generated in mobilising the peasants. As such it re-emerged after the independence in a more pronounced manner with the failure of the land reforms.

In conclusion, Professor Alam reiterated that the democratisation of the masses in India has been the result of a long historical process in which those who are on the margins have risen up again and again. Those who are marginal, he stated, cannot be marginalised because of democracy itself as well as the democratic struggles. In India today democracy is what it is because of the popular initiatives and, despite being compromised and untidy, it is vibrant.

**Nandita Khadria, Research Officer
Educational Records Research Unit, SSS**

Seminar on "India – Kazakhstan Relations: Opportunities and Prospects"

The Central Asian Studies Programme, Centre for South, Central, South East Asian and South West Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, organized a seminar on 'India – Kazakhstan Relations: Opportunities and Prospects' on 30 August 2010. The lecture was delivered by His Excellency Shri Ashok Sajjanhar, currently Ambassador of the Republic of India to Sweden and Latvia.

Shri Sajjanhar began his talk touching upon the history, civilization and India-Kazakhstan bilateral relations dating back to 2500 years ago. He briefly touched upon the Kushan Empire, the vibrant and dynamic exchange over the Silk Road from 3rd-14th century AD, Babur's reign, the Soviet period and the British rule in India.

Highlighting the great regard that the President of Kazakhstan has for India, Ambassador Sajjanhar stated that India was the first destination outside the CIS visited by President Nazarbayev in Feb, 1992 after he took over as the president of independent Kazakhstan, establishing his enthusiasm in building deep relations with India. In his first address to the UN General Assembly, President Nazarbayev spoke highly of Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Buddha. The growing importance of India and Kazakhstan's relation is confirmed by the fact that India invited President Nazarbayev as the Chief Guest to its 60th Republic day celebrations in New Delhi in January 2009. Nearly 150 businessmen accompanied the President on his visit. This led to a significant upgradation in the bilateral relationship.

Some major Agreements signed during the visit and subsequently include:

- Oil and Gas – with an area almost equal to 92 percent of the Indian territory, Kazakhstan is endowed with rich natural mineral resources in addition to oil and gas. Kazakhstan has more than 100 minerals and metals on the Mendeleev Table which are commercially viable resources such as uranium, oil, gas, gold, coal, manganese, lead, zinc, barites, molybdenum, copper, chrome, etc. An agreement was signed by India and Kazakhstan to harness the first off shore oil in the Caspian Sea. The Government of India will start the work soon with an investment of USD 400 million.
- Interest to cooperate in the civilian nuclear sector emerged between India and Kazakhstan, with the latter having the largest Uranium ore production in the world in 2009. Nuclear energy is important for India. Today India produces energy from Uranium reserves only to the tune of 3 percent. This is expected to rise to 20% by 2020. Both countries are close to signing the inter-governmental

agreement for civilian nuclear energy cooperation. This could open up several fresh opportunities for collaboration.

- Export of Indian technology and nuclear reactors: India currently has 17 nuclear reactors which are producing energy. It is famous for its safe and clean energy and Kazakhstan is keen to develop the same.
- More than 60 business delegations visited Kazakhstan from India to expand their business especially in the sectors of Pharmaceuticals, where joint ventures with the Custom's Union are in progress involving Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus. This has tremendous scope according to Ambassador Sajjanhar. More so because Kazakhstan is extremely peaceful without any inter-ethnic, inter-communal, inter-religion conflicts. The GDP of Kazakhstan remained fairly stable despite the financial crisis. Indian companies need to be apprised of alternative routes but these are not as viable. Instead establishing joint ventures and producing goods in Kazakhstan seems to be a better option. Two pharmaceutical companies have already signed agreements to establish joint ventures to manufacture medicines and drugs in Kazakhstan. Civil works are in progress and hopefully production will commence shortly.
- An expressway from the Chinese border to Kazakhstan is being developed at a cost of 2 billion dollars. This will help several countries to enhance their trade. One of the Premier Indian companies M/s IL&FS in collaboration with an Italian company has been identified as the preferred bidder for the highway project as part of the West Europe-West China Transport Corridor Project. Trade is now through China which is a long, expensive and time consuming route. Kazakhstan is now developing a rail/road route from west Kazakhstan through Turkmenistan to Iran at Bandar Abbas. This is expected to be completed by Dec 2011. Basically now the problem is of logistics. Once this takes off India will be at an advantageous position.

The political and strategic relations are extremely good with similar views between India and Kazakhstan whether it is about terrorism or development activities. In fact Kazakhstan came forward and supported India for the UN Security Council position and withdrew its membership in favor of India. There are already several Indian offices such as M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), and Punjab National Bank (PNB), which has signed an Agreement to take over a bank in

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Kazakhstan. The recent Expo India in Almaty had more than 70 Indian companies participating in order to develop the bilateral relations. The private sector has started becoming active and the last big Exhibition was held from 14-22 August 2010. However according to Ambassador Sajjanhar, the commercial relationship remains far below the potential and what the two strategic partners should have.

Answering a series of questions, the Ambassador stated that it is a fact that there exists no common border between India and Kazakhstan. However the world needs to know how India has emerged into a powerful nation. It needs to display its technology and efforts by organizing visits and exhibitions. India needs to be understood better by Kazakhstan. And Indian business needs to know more about what Kazakhstan needs.

There exists a huge information divide between India and Kazakhstan. Several delegations from India principally in the area of business and economic relations visited Kazakhstan. Interactions and exchanges between these delegations and their counterparts and interlocutors in Kazakhstan have helped to bridge the "information divide" that exists between our two countries. It has also helped to further promote understanding and awareness regarding opportunities for expansion of business and economic relations between the two countries.

He stated that both economics and education are important sectors of cooperation. The Memoranda of Understanding signed between Kazakh and Indian Universities needs to be worked out. He commented that only one university that is Amity International was proactive and came forward for education linked cooperation. A lot more thinking needs to be done. In 2008 there were 23 Indian research institutes listed out for cooperation but the Indian institutes could not do canvassing and proper selling of their academic assets. Ed.Cil did come once but eventually stopped. Getting recognition in Kazakhstan's Bolashak programme is important as 3000 students are sent every year to various universities. So such a relationship needs to be developed.

Kazakhstan with its bright future is expected to rapidly grow in terms of its economic development. Kazakhstan is chairing and hosting the oncoming OSCE summit in Astana in Dec 2010 where a total number of 56 countries are expected to participate. The speaker also stated that Kazakhstan was all set to chair the OIC in 2011.

Prof Warikoo, Director, Central Asia Area Studies Programme commended President Nazarbayev for his vision on social and political dimension in shifting the capital from Almaty to Astana. Despite a strong revolt by the Karaganda miners President Nazarbayev stuck to his decision and he was able to contain the Russian influence in the area.

Answering to an array of questions on the membership of WTO getting in the way of bilateral trade, Ambassador Sajjanhar stated that both Russia and Kazakhstan were on the threshold of becoming members when they announced that they will join as a Custom Vs Union. Both may join in the near future simultaneously. However he did not feel that the WTO membership would stand in the way to international trade between India and Kazakhstan. For example M/s Marcel Group is opening an office in India to promote export of its products including mineral water etc. to India. Similarly M/s Kazstroy Services has been awarded several contracts valued at around USD 500 million for construction of oil and gas pipelines in India. Similarly an agreement was signed between the United Chemical Company of Kazakhstan and a major fertilizer manufacturing company of India to cooperate in the establishment of a Potash and Phosphatic Fertilizer manufacturing factory in Kazakhstan.

Ambassador Sajjanhar appreciated President Nazarbayev's education programme of 1993, through 'Bolashak' (meaning future) which transformed a controlled economy to an open economy. Even during the era of uncertainty and chaos Kazakhstan went ahead in selecting meritorious students and sent them abroad with all expenses paid. Even though GDP went down radically in the post-Soviet period, he was far-sighted and sagacious to realize the long term benefits of this initiative.

He pointed out that when the oil prices rose and there were lots of voices from the public to distribute the excess money among the people, President Nazarbayev in 2001, announced the creation of the National Oil Fund which would be an investment project for oil revenues that would promote social development and maintain a reserve fund to bail out Kazakhstan if the price of oil plummeted in the future. This came in handy during the recent financial crisis that gripped the world.

In addition President Nazarbayev brought together authoritative religious leaders of the Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and other faiths, as well as prestigious international political figures together gaining wide recognition from major international forums. Such meetings have been held at 3 years interval beginning from 2003, 2006 followed by 2009 through which he was able to keep inter-ethnic conflicts under control.

While answering to a question related to gender, Ambassador Sajjanhar stated that women so far are not represented adequately in most of the countries in the world except in a few countries like Sweden where more than half the Parliamentarians are women. In Kazakhstan the women

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parliamentarians would hardly form 10 to 12 percent of the total numbers.

Answering to the questions on the various irritants of bilateral relations, the Ambassador was categorical that there were no disputes existing as far as India is concerned. As far as Luxembourg-based ArcelorMittal was concerned, India cannot be held responsible as it was not an Indian company. The Iscon land dispute had already been resolved. Answering a question as to how India can play a role in Kazakhstan given the fact of important external players already present, Ambassador Sajjanhar was emphatic about India being a strong contender because of its soft power. China is seen as a threat. He stated that it had been reported that Kazakhstan would give one million hectares of land in Taraz to China. This however did not take place. India is seen as a benign power whose presence is seen as promoting and preserving security, peace, development and growth.

In terms of military capability of Kazakhstan, the speaker stated that they are extremely close to Russia with 80 percent of their defense equipment being imported from Russia.

However they are now importing military equipment from Israel as well. Military exercises are being conducted under the aegis of SCO. The Kazakh Institute of Strategic Studies is at present considering signing an Agreement with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). Answering to a question on tourism potential, he stated that there is huge potential for developing the tourist industry especially considering that Indians don't overstay, do a lot of shopping but hurdles are too tedious. It's difficult to obtain a tourist visa and huge bottlenecks exist.

Finally the speaker ended his lecture with a word of encouragement that India needs to accelerate its bilateral links with Kazakhstan at a rapid pace. According to him there were no more choices and such effort cannot be delayed any further. India needs to work consciously towards developing a very strong and vibrant close relationship with Kazakhstan.

**Mondira Dutta, Seminar Coordinator
Central Asian Studies Programme,
Centre for South, Central South East Asian and
South West Pacific Studies, SIS**

Our Publications

List of Publications

School of Languages, Literature and Culture Studies

- "Bose of Nakamura An Indian Revolutionay in Japan" Bibliophile South Asia, 2009, New Delhi Motwani Prem, CJKNEAS and Nakajima Takeshi
- "TPM Gallops Across the Globe", CII, 2009 Motwani Prem, CJKNEAS, and Suzuki Tokutaro
- "Management by Technology" Second Revised Edition, Productivity & Publishing Pvt. Ltd., Madras 2009 Motwani, Prem, CJKNEAS and Kume Hitoshi
- "Garuda in Asian Art", Bhartiya Kala Prakashan, Delhi 2009 Motwani Prem, CJKNEAS, Yamamoto & D.P. Sharma
- "Japan, the Living Culture", Har-anand, New Delhi, 2009 Jain, Sushma, CJKNEAS
- "SAKURA", (Co-author, CBSE Text Book), Goyal Publishers, 2009 Jain, Sushma, CJKNEAS
- "Ant ka Aarambh", Translation of poems written by Takashi Arima Pub. B.R. Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, 2009 Khanna, Anita, CJKNEAS (Jointly)
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- 'Nai Ghazal Ki Lafziyat'; Arshia Publications, Delhi 2010, Mashkoor Moini, CIL.
- Aadhunik Sahitya Mein Dalit Vimarsh'; Orient Blackswan, Delhi 2009, Devendra Choubey, CIL.
- Balkrishna Bhatt Aur Aadhunik Hindi Aalochana Ka Aarambh'; Antika Prakashan, Delhi 2009, Abhishek Roshan, CIL.
- 'Itihas: Sanyog Ki Saarthaktaa' by Surendra Choudhary; Antika Prakashan, Delhi 2009, Uday Shankar, CIL.

Our Scholars

List of scholars who have been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D), Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) and Master of Technology (M.Tech). The name of the scholar is followed by the title of the thesis/dissertation and the name of the supervisor.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D)

School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies

Centre of Indian Languages

Mr. Zeeshan Haidar “Thought and Art of Ali Sardar Jafri & Progressive Movement”, Prof. Mohd. Shahid Husain

Mr. Murtaza Ali Athar “The Image of Women in Modern Urdu Poetry” (1960-2000), Dr. S.M. Anwar Alam

Ms. Kanchan Verma “A Comparative Study of Hindi Translations of Shakespear's Major Comedies” Dr. Ranjit Kr. Saha

Mr. Shri Dharam “The Issues of Women's Freedom in Nagarjun's Literature”, Prof. Chaman Lal and Prof. Manager Pandey (Joint Supervisor)

Mr. Md. Jalil “Iqbal Ki Shairi Ke Angrezi Trajim: Ek Taqabuli Motala (A Comparative Study of English Translations of Iqbal's Poetry), Dr. Mazhar Hussain

Mr. Mohd. Khalid “New Realism in Fiction of the Last Quarter of Twentieth Century: An Analytical Study”, Dr. S.M. Anwar Alam

Centre for English Studies

Ms. Sharon Pillai “De/Siring Women: Re-Addressing Gender Relations in Indian-Novels”, Prof. Makarand Paranjape

Mr. Someshwar Sati “Narrating the Indian Nation: Construction of India in Indian Fiction in English”, Prof. G.J.V. Prasad

Centre of French & Francophone Studies

Ms. Sudipta Sil “Women in French & Bengali Proverbs: A Comparative Study”, Prof. Kiran Chaudhary

School of International Studies

Centre for European Studies

Mr. Teiborlang T Kharsyntiew “British Attitude Towards Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union”, Prof. Ummu Salma Bava

Centre for West Asian and African Studies

Mr. Sandipani Dash “Sudan's Oil Diplomacy, 1991-2003”, Prof. S.N. Malakar

Mr. Khurshid Imam “Hebrew Language Policy of Israel: An Assessment 1948-2000”, Prof. P.C. Jain

Centre for South Central South East Asian and South West Pacific Studies

Mr. Sanjay Kumar “Micro-Finance Interventions Among Women Workers: A Comparative Study of SEWA in India BRAC Bangladesh”, Prof. I.N. Mukherji

Mr. Sudhir Kumar Singh “Regional Cooperation in Central Asia, 1991-2003, Prof.K. Warikoo

Ms. Namrata Pathak “Protection of Traditional Knowledge-A Comparative Study of India and Bangladesh”, Prof. I.N. Mukherji

Mr. Subrata Kumar Behera “Connecting India's North East with Bangladesh: A Study of Transport Linkages”, Prof. I.N. Mukherji

Centre for East Asian Studies

Mr. Sandip Kumar Mishra “Korean Peninsula in the Post-Cold War Era: A Study of Security Paradigm” Dr. Alka Acharya

Centre for International Politics, Organization & Disarmament

Ms. Devika Sharma “Deviations From Westphalian Territoriality: a Conceptual and Historical Study”, Prof. Varun Sahni

School of Environmental Sciences

Mr. Prashant Kumar Jaiswal “Molecular Characterization of Bacteria For Degradation and Detoxification of Dibenzofuran”, Prof. I.S. Thakur

Mr. Gagan Deep Jhingan “Studies on RNA Polymerase Basal Transcription Factors in Entamoeba Histolytica” Dr. Sudha Bhattacharya

School of Life Sciences

Ms. Babita Sharma “Molecular Modeling Analysis of Plasmodium P25 and P28 Surface Proteins: Potential Transmission Blocking Vaccines”, Dr. Ajay Kumar Saxena

Mr. R. Suresh Kumar “Targeted Ribozyme Against Telomerase RNA Component”, Prof. P.K. Yadava

Our Scholars

School of Arts and Aesthetics

Ms. Alka Tyagi “Intersemiotic Transformations: A Study of Works of Two Medieval Indian Bhakti Poets, Akka Mahadevi and Andal”, Dr. H.S. Shiva Prakash

Centre for the Study of Law and Governance

Ms. Sanghamitra Choudhary “Women in Conflict Situations: A Study of Nalbari District of Assam”, Dr. Amit Prakash

School of Biotechnology

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Mr. Sanjay Kumar “Bioprocess Strategies for the Production of Recombinant Human Granulocyte-Colony Stimulating Factor in Escherichia Coli”, Prof. K.J. Mukherjee

School of Social Sciences

Centre for the Study of Regional Development

Ms. Reshmy R Nair “Food Security in Kerala with Special Reference to the Targeted Public Distribution System”, Prof. R.S. Srivastava

Centre for Economic Studies and Planning

Ms. Ravinder Jha “India Pharmaceutical Industry: Growth, Innovation and Prices”, Prof. Jayati Ghosh

Centre for the Studies in Science Policy

Mr. Nimesh Chandra “Academia-Industry Interface: Modes of Knowledge Production and Transfer at the Indian Institute of Technology”, Prof. V.V. Krishna

Mr. Pravenn Arora “Health Biotechnology Innovation System in India: Capitalisation of Linkages” Prof. Pranav N. Desai

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Mr. Felix Ngunzo Kioli “Sexual Behaviour of Adolescents among the Akamba People of Machakos District, Kenya”, Dr. Renuka Singh

Ms. Sridhara Mishra “Family and Kinship: A Study of the Bania Community of Roorkee, Uttarakhand”, Prof. Maitrayee Chaudhuri

Ms. Urna Dutta “Sociology of Consumerism: A Study of Select Malls in Kolkata”, Prof. Avijit Pathak

Mr. Charu Malhotra “Internally Displaced Kashmiri People: A Sociological Study of Response Strategies and Change”, Dr. Nikita Mehrotra

Ms. Renu Vinod “Mobilization for Participatory Democracy and Good Governance in India: A Sociological Study” Prof. Anand Kumar

Centre for Political Studies

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Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad

Ms. Anjali Bajpai “Analysis of Short Interspersed Nuclear Elements (SINEs) from Man and Mouse”, Dr. Rachel, A J

Raman Research Institute, Bangalore

Ms. Alpana Nayak “Organization of Discotic Mesogenic Amphiphiles At Aiwater and AiSolid Interfaces, Prof. Kattera A Suresh

Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow

Mr. Kulwant Singh “Structural and Stability Characteristics of an Apicoplast Ferredoxin NADP+ Reductase from Toxoplasma gondii”, Dr. Vinod Bhakuni

Ms. Swapnil Sinha “Analysis of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms in Genes

Related to Resistance or Susceptibility to Plasmodium falciparum Malaria in the Indian Population”, Dr. Saman Habib

Master of Philosophy (M.Phil)

School of Language, Literature, Literature and Culture Studies

Centre for Linguistics

Ms. Radhika Gopalakrishnan “Second Language Phonology: Investigating Tamil English”, Prof. P.K.S Pandey

Centre for English Studies

Mr. Sukhdev Singh “The Matrix of Power: A Critique of Marlovian Heroes”, Prof. G.J.V. Prasad

Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies

Mr. Ramkishore Maholiya “Prasthanatravi Sankarabhasya Mein Samkhya-Sidhanta Samiksa”, Prof. Ram Nath Jha

School of Life Sciences

Mr. Naveen Kumar Singhal “Preparation and Characterization of Nanoparticles as Non-viral Vector for Gene/Drug Delivery”, Dr. Atul K. Johri

An interview with Peter Isaac, Founder Chairman, Pi International.



Bhoomika: How has JNU shaped your perception in relation to your profession? Do you think JNUites do things differently in your field?

Peter Isaac: “To Doubt is to think, to think is to exist, I think, therefore I am” This was a quote that was often used by the Free Thinkers of JNU during my formative days.

Here I was, a young lad who did his schooling in Guntur, graduation from Hyderabad, travelled the world at nineteen, been on Radio since the age of nine and completely oblivious to the political machinations of JNU.

SFI, AISF, FT were just alphabets thrown against walls for dramatic graffiti effect, or so I thought.

I was amazed as a young man to come to a campus where physical violence was never present-it was actually looked down upon. If anyone had an issue, all you had to do was write a pamphlet and place it in the mess for people to read and come to their own considered conclusions. It was a University that taught me that the pen was mightier than the sword and offered me the soap box opera of Hyde Park in real life on the campus. We were all cocooned in the safe haven of a non-violent community. Girls could walk back and forth from Jhelum (the only co-ed hostel during my time) to the library or Priya Cinema in the wee hours of the morning and still have “Dubey Jee's bun anda in the lawns or neebu pani at Godavari (the girls' hostel). It was a world that was far removed from reality.

Every day one used to read about violent incidents in Delhi University but we never ever had a single incident in JNU.

We had eminent Professors such as Prof Rasheeduddin Khan, Prof Seshadri, Prof Romila Thapar, Prof Deepankar Gupta, Prof Sarvaypalli Rajgopal, Prof Zoya Hassan, Prof K R Singh – Good Lord! so many memories just keep flooding back of the greatness that JNU is.

We had incredible human beings like Lalchand our Choukidar at Jhelum, Ramu at Gopal Dhaba with his incredible smile, Banana Milkshake and Masala Dosa, Rana at the Library check point; the list of people who made a difference in our lives is endless. Little do we realise the importance of kindness. Each one of these people has helped me shape my life in a manner that inexplicable.

I am also from the batch that was infamous for allowing the University to close down sine die, which I think, brought new and big changes into JNU's way of life.

JNU truly shaped me, not just in my profession, but as a human being. I passionately believe that those of us from JNU do look at the world quite differently.

Bhoomika: Tell us something about your experiences as an entrepreneur in the IT sector. How did this curious shift from Social Sciences to IT come about? What was the trajectory that your career took after you left JNU?

Peter Isaac: I have been an entrepreneur at heart from times immemorial. I used to work at AIR in the nights reading the news for the External Services division, whilst I was still a student at JNU. I knew I would be doing something on my own, but prior to that I had to work and gain the experience and exposure.

So I began my career at New Delhi Railway Station as a porter during the day and as newsreader at AIR in the nights, straight out of JNU till my colleague and mentor at AIR the famous newsreader Pamela Singh introduced me to C Y Gopinath, who offered me a job as an errand boy at Patriot newspaper's E N Center for Communications. Whilst I was working at Patriot I realized my love for Technology. Patriot was changing from letterpress to offset printing. Dr. Sugata Mitra, now with NIIT, was spearheading that division. I spent most of my waking moments learning as much as I could and each day brought about a new desire to learn about the fascinating world of technology.

Around this time I became one of India's first TV English newsreaders on Doordarshan.

Subsequently, I left Patriot and technology to get into the world of Advertising. I joined Ulka Advertising in Delhi, post which I moved to JWT. JWT posted me to Chennai. I switched from JWT to O & M in Chennai, who later switched me to O & M in Bangalore to look after the brand Titan Watches. Having spent over four years with O & M, the passion for technology made me quit and join the breakaway family of Kirloskars to head up the marketing of Kirloskar Multimedia. Whilst the world was still wondering what computers were all about, we were about to create multimedia titles on CDROMS. It was one of those great decisions to take, but in terrible times, since the company was still trying to raise capital. In this effort, I sunk in all of my PF and life's savings. They fired me. I moved to Bombay selling my voice for commercials on TV.

Alumni Corner

I then joined Tariq Ansari, the owner of Mid Day newspaper in Mumbai, as a Director and CEO of Radio Mid Day the first FM radio station in India. What a joy to marry technology and radio – both of my first loves. I introduced computer software into radio programming and automation. I was invited by Channel (V) to help them introduce technology into their programming. I was now shuttling between India and Hong Kong. I helped their China and Asia Beam in bringing about this technological revolution. I was then invited by World Space to head their network programming, initially for India and later on for their Middle East & Global Programming. So now I was shuttling between Beirut, London, Washington DC & Bangalore.

It was during this period that I decided to venture on my own and created Pi International. The name Pi, being the mathematical symbol and not to mention my initial, was a deliberate choice. Pompous as it may sound, it was one of the most humbling times in my life when Anthem, the Global Advertising Agency, created this logo and company name.

We were the first Indian company to help write software for the global radio and TV industry. We received awards such as “coolest software of the year” at NAB in Vegas amongst others.

Post the debacle of September 11th, we ventured into the US Health care industry where we have created a niche for ourselves.

Bhoomika: Is there anything in your life which can be dedicated to JNU?

Peter Isaac: My small company in India, which began in the former Prime Minister Late P V Narasimha Rao's home in December of 1999, now has offices in the US & Singapore.

We were the first Indian company to be awarded the HIPAA Academy's certificate of HIPAA Security compliance. We can also boast of simple things such as zero percent attrition. All

of these I attribute to the upbringing that I have had at home, the time I spent at JNU and most importantly to enormous support and blessings from God. I am a great believer in God and I can say with all humility that I am who I am because of God's grace and blessings and not just by ability to doubt and think!

I am very proud of a lot of accomplishments whilst I was at JNU. To cite one example, for the first time in the history of JNU, we participated in the Hindu College Debate. I was adjudged the best speaker and JNU was given the Rolling Trophy. Tripurari Sharan, the former head of the India's TV and Film Institute was my partner in this venture.

To me, my shaping as a human being can be attributed to JNU and there is nothing that I regret of my time spent there. I have made some incredible lifelong friends. Subrat Rathod, Arshiya Sethi Nee Bawa, Ravi Shastri, Bala Prasad, Chandra Shekar Tibrewal, Arun Raman, Afried Patel, Lanu Baruah, Gauri Trivedi to name just a few. Somewhere down the line I lost touch with my Iraqi roommate Sami Hatto Abid Ali and my Nigerian classmate Dusty. One day I hope I will find them. I am not much of a “Facebook” kind of a chap so it will take probably a while for me to find them.

Bhoomika: Have you visited JNU recently?

Peter Isaac: I came for the recent 30 year Global JNU alumni meet. It was lovely to meet so many of my contemporaries, seniors and Professors. It was a joy to see my favourite Prof Deepankar Gupta.

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

Peter Isaac: I am not a chap who can give anyone a message, but all I can say to the students at JNU currently is that I am very proud and honoured to be part of this great community.

शोक प्रस्ताव

जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के छात्र और प्राध्यापक अपने तीन साथियों – राजनीतिज्ञ श्री दिग्विजय सिंह, समाजशास्त्री श्री अंजन घोष और भारतीय पुलिस सेवा के श्री अमित वर्मा के निधन से शोकग्रस्त हैं। जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय अपने सामाजिक सरोकारों के लिए पूरे देश में जाना जाता है। हमारे इन तीनों साथियों ने विश्वविद्यालय से शिक्षा पूरी करने के बाद भारतीय राजनीति, समाजशास्त्र और प्रशासनिक क्षेत्रों में अपने अमूल्य योगदान से लोगों को प्रभावित किया। खासकर, दिग्विजय सिंह ने भारतीय राजनीति की समानांतर धारा में जे.एन.यू. वाली विवेकशीलता की गहरी छाप छोड़ी। ठीक इसी प्रकार श्री अंजन घोष ने एक समाजशास्त्री के रूप में और श्री अमित वर्मा ने एक पुलिस अधिकारी के रूप में अमित छाप छोड़ी है।

हम सभी इन तीनों साथियों के जाने से शोकग्रस्त हैं। उनकी कमी को कोई पूरा नहीं कर सकता। इस गहरी शोक की बेला में हम सभी उनके प्रति गहरी संवेदना प्रकट करते हुए यह प्रार्थना करते हैं कि इस कठिन घड़ी में ईश्वर उनके परिवार को धैर्य प्रदान करें।

— अल्युमनी एशोशिएसन,
जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय, नयी दिल्ली

Photo Gallery



1. Mr. Nguyen Thanhtan, H. E. Ambassador of Vietnam visited JNU on 30 August, 2010 and met Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor JNU. Photo shows Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya (extreme right) interacting with the Ambassador of Vietnam.
2. An Indonesian delegation consisting of teachers and students from various Indonesian Universities visited JNU on 3 August, 2010, to understand and discuss about the possible exchange as well as collaboration between students in two countries. Photo shows (from right) members of the Indonesia delegation; Prof. Sachidanand Sinha, Associate Dean of Students; Dr. S. Chandrasekaran, Coordinator, (Eval.); and Public Relations Officer, JNU
3. A delegation of Korean students visited the School of Computation and Integrative Sciences on 24 August, 2010 and met Dr. Andrew Lynn. Photo shows Dr. Andrew Lynn (extreme right) interacting with the Korean students also seen the photograph is Dr. Jitendra Uttam, (second from right) Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies.
4. A meeting of the Coordinators of the participating Universities for the Combined Entrance Examination conducted by JNU for admission to M.Sc. Biotechnology Programme was held on 2 July 2010. Photo shows Dr. S. Chandrasekaran, Coordinator, (Eval.); Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor, JNU; Prof. K. C. Upadhyaya Director, Admissions; Dr. Suman Goel, Department of Biotechnology; and Prof. Rajiv Bhatt, Dean, School of Biotechnology.
5. JNU hosted the meetings of the Specific Committees and Core Committee of the Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities, on 13 August, 2010. Photo shows (from right) Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU; Prof. Deepak Pental, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University; Prof. Pramod Tandon, Vice-Chancellor, NEHU; Prof. Sayed E. Hasnain, Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad; Dr. S. Chandrasekaran, Coordinator (Eval.) JNU; and Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor, JNU.
6. The Alumni Affairs & Placement Cell organized a meeting of JNU Alumni on 13 August, 2010, at School of Social Sciences, Committee Room. Photo shows Prof. Anand Kumar, Chief Advisor, Alumni Affairs & Placement Cell, alongwith the JNU Alumni.



7. The School of Computation and Integrative Sciences organized a workshop on "Biomolecular Simulations and its Applications in Biology", from 1 – 6 August, 2010. Photo shows (from right) Prof. Indira Ghosh, Dean, SIT; Dr. T. Madhan Mohan, Advisor, Department of Biotechnology and a student of the School.
8. North East India Studies Programme, School of Social Sciences organized a seminar on "Ethnicity, Conflict and Poverty in Manipur" by Ms. Veronica Khangchian, Research Scholar, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences on 20 August, 2010. Photo shows Ms. Veronica delivering the lecture, also seen in the photograph is Prof. Tiplut Nongbri, Chairperson, CSSS, SSS.
9. The Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies organized the "Sanskrit Week Celebration Programme – 2010" from 24 – 31 August, 2010. Photo shows (from right) Prof. V. K. Jain, Registrar; Mr. Godabarish Misra, Member Secretary, I.C.P.R and Prof. Indra Nath Chaudhuri.
10. Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor hoisting the national flag at the Academic Complex during the Independence Day Celebration in JNU Campus on 15 August, 2010.



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