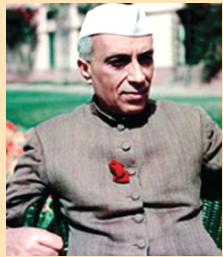




BIMONTHLY JOURNAL OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY



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 objective. It the Universities discharge their duties adequately, then it is well with the nation and the people.



The Symbol is a graphic statement which stands for international academic exchange and onwards search of knowledge for the betterment of human being. The overlapping circular segments of the design denote global interaction, traditional India '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...



A Conversation with **Professor Didier Coste** renowned poet and translator, Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature, Université Bordeaux Montaigne, France, and currently Fellow, JNIAS

Akash Raha: You have been a part of the global academic community; from Europe to Australia to the US, and from Argentina to Tunisia. How is India different from other places you have been to?

Prof. Didier Coste: India is different in many ways, and fascinating as an experiment in complexity. I chose to become a specialist on modern and contemporary India although I didn't have much interest in it originally. I needed a point of entry into Indian culture, it happened in the form of a Satyajit Ray retrospective in Sydney in the mid-70s. I started with art films and then, I began reading contemporary literature and so on and so forth. I have been visiting India since 1978, to see a friend in Mumbai. Later, since 2003, I became adept to Delhi and specially JNU. I have since had frequent and long residences here and travelled East, West and South.

Akash Raha: How does JNIAS, JNU help further your academic goals?

Prof. Didier Coste: JNU is a very dynamic intellectual environment. In my fields of study and research, I find that my Indian colleagues and fellow researchers are more receptive to ideas and possibilities as compared to those from other cultures. Also, they have an ability and keenness to debate, discuss and argue on a well informed and logical basis. A lot of honest discussions are going on in the humanities in India. I am afraid that is not so much the case in continental Europe or even in above average North American universities. Perhaps, you would have to go to some of the "top" universities in the world to find a similar intellectual environment. This is very stimulating for me.

Akash Raha: What are some of the areas where JNU can improve, what can JNU learn from top Universities in the world?

Prof. Didier Coste: Generally, I think that there is a serious problem of documentation in the Humanities in India. At times it is difficult to get hold of books that are published in India in good series. Every time I come to India I buy a lot of books that I don't get in Europe. But I wouldn't find half of these books in the University library and they are not digitized.

I understand that JNU has recently been ranked (more than once) as the top University by the Government of India. Over the past few years the English department was ranked (twice) amongst the best 100 departments in the world. This is remarkable, even if you do not believe in such rankings. It is remarkable, particularly keeping in mind the small size of JNU centres.

Hence, I don't think that the university will improve with restriction on admission. On the contrary, the way forward will be to give students more options and to encourage interdisciplinary studies.

As a fellow of JNIAS I am affiliated to three centres and I realize that a lot of fine interdisciplinary work is being done. There seems to be a good measure of person to person collaboration between centres, which elsewhere would be tightly partitioned. But I think this could be more institutionalized through the emergence of Comparative Literature and Culture as at Jadavpur or Visva Bharati. There should be a possibility to offer trans-centre courses and seminars. Various centres in the School of Languages and the School of Social Sciences could collaborate to give joint-degrees. The potential is there to be exploited.

Akash Raha: I understand France is important to you since you have lived and taught there. What are your thoughts about the upcoming French elections? Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen are now the front-runners for Presidency.

Prof. Didier Coste: It is not the first time that the far-right has come to the forefront in the Presidential elections. Also, wherever there is proportional representation (as in the European Assembly elections), the far right has grabbed seats. But the situation is much worse now than it has ever been, and it is all over the world. We can see it in large parts of Western Europe, in the UK, in Central Europe (Hungary and Poland) and so on. What is new in France is that none of the reasonable candidates had a serious chance to be elected and no candidate has a chance of getting stable majority support in parliament, even with alliances. But Le Pen will hopefully not pass, it would be more than a shock; France would be close to a civil war and the EU would disintegrate.

Akash Raha: However, recently we have seen shocking political developments all round the world... We have seen the far right grow. How do you think these developments affect academics?

Prof. Didier Coste: The far-right's effects on the humanities and the social sciences are devastating. Even speculative hard sciences like Pure Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, which work with long term goals and no immediate profitability, are adversely affected. Everything that is speculative, that is not going to guarantee short-term financial returns, seems to be doomed. Although, it is not just the far-right that is responsible for this. It is the entire financial capitalist establishment.

The strategy is to erode, little by little, and then kill. First degree programs are closed, then labs have to shut down, library funds are curtailed and then teachers are only offered 'Temp' positions.

In Conversation with...

This is a relatively recent phenomenon but it has happened not just under the far-right but centre-left governments as well.

Akash Raha: In such a scenario, what is the way forward for academics?

Prof. Didier Coste: I fear that we may have to wait for a couple of major, worldwide disasters... It seems we haven't learnt from the past, that we have already forgotten about the big recession that started in 2008. It is an ongoing, chronic crisis, a structural crisis from which the global economy has not fully recovered after 9 years. We should promote international solidarity, allocate our resources carefully and work on creating a model that is sustainable and encourages ecological development.

These days we have political leaders who seem to think they are great economists, but they want to repeat what Margaret Thatcher did in the 70s; a disaster. Similar policies make even less sense 40 years later. I am not optimistic about recovery, unless we keep a tab on our ecology and the issue of a humane education beyond mere technological skills is taken seriously. We need to bring back not-for-profit ethical and cosmopolitan thinking. The consequences of another global crash are incalculable.

India and China are going to lead global trends in the upcoming years and it is going to be very interesting to see how they proceed. They seemingly want to turn ecological: but in the face of industrial development, is there a real political will to do so? It is a pity that not many people in our leadership possess acumen

for both economy and ecology. Small is beautiful, maybe the 'God of Small Things' will save us!

Akash Raha: Even though it seems a little difficult to be optimistic, as a teacher, academician, a researcher and a well-known poet, what would you like to tell young, eager, students and researchers who are waiting to make a mark in JNU?

Prof. Didier Coste: I think young people that I meet here today are just as bright and dynamic as their predecessors; if at all, the youth today is more committed. In the current situation there is very little hope for them to achieve the kind of career that their elders could secure easily, until quite recently in India. The crunch in the humanities has been felt here only in the last 5 years.

I find it disheartening to see some young and brilliant minds struggling, every term, to offer a few courses at DU colleges. I am not going to ask them to persist, present papers everywhere, attend many conferences, spend all their modest income on these shows and hope that luck will strike suddenly, delivering a permanent academic job for Diwali. I tell them: even if you work in the private sector or in high school or in a primary school – do it! Read, research, experiment and debate: your mind will not die. It is a security that you have for yourself – to not die as humans, and not become robots. This is the only thing I can ask them and encourage them to do.

Movements & Appointments

New Appointments/ Deans/ Directors/ Chairpersons

- Prof. Shyamal K. Goswami as Dean, School of Life Sciences.
- Prof. A.K. Pasha as Associate Dean, School of International Studies.
- Prof. Vibha Tandon, Special Centre for Molecular Medicine as Chief Proctor for a period of two years.
- Prof. Sugato Dasgupta, as Chairperson, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences for a period of two years.
- Prof. Archana Upadhyay as Chairperson, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies for a period of two years.
- Prof. Udaya Kumar as Chairperson, Centre for English Studies, School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies for a period of two years.
- Prof. Rajiv Saxena as Chairperson, Centre for Spanish, Portuguese, Italian & Latin American Studies, School of

Language, Literature and Cultural Studies for a period of two years.

- Prof. Bindu Puri as Chairperson, Centre for Philosophy, School of social Sciences, for a period of two years.
- Dr. Saradindu Bhaduri as Chairperson, Centre for Studies in Science Policy, School of Social Sciences, for a period of two years.
- Prof. Shukla Vinayak Sawant as Chairperson, Gender Sensitization Committee against Sexual Harassment, for a term of twelve months.

Retirements & Resignations

- Prof. Manu Mittal, Centre for Russian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.
- Prof. B. C. Tripathi, School of Life Sciences.
- Sh. Jit Singh, Joint Registrar, SC/ST Cell.
- Sh. M. K. Gupta, Private Secretary, Registrar Office.
- Sh. Kharak Singh, Junior Assistant – cum – Typist, Godavari Hostel.

Movements & Appointments

- Sh. Subodh Kumar Bali, Lift Operator, Engineering Branch.
- Sh. Satya Prakash, Wireman, Engineering Branch.
- Sh. Satya Narayan Dahiya, Security Assistant, Security Office.

NOTIFICATIONS

The Competent Authority has reconstituted the Traffic Management Committee consisting of the following members for a period of two years:

- Dr. Rajan Kumar, CR&CAS/SIS : Chairman
- Dr. Md. Qutbuddin, CAAS/SLL&CS : Member
- Chairperson, CDC : Member
- Jt. Registrar (Estate) : Member
- Dy. Registrar (Admin) : Member
- Dy. Registrar (Legal Cell) : Member
- Dy. Registrar (IHA) : Member
- Incharge Engineering Branch : Member
- Rep. JNUTA : Member
- Rep. JNUOA : Member
- Rep. JNUSA : Member
- Rep. JNUSU : Member
- Expert, Delhi Police (Traffic) : Special Invitee
- Chief Security Officer : Member Secretary

The Compensation Committee as under for a period of two years:

- G. Vijayachandra Naidu : Chairman
- Finance Officer or his Rep. : Member
- Joint Registrar (Estate) : Member
- Dy. Registrar (Legal Cell) : Member
- Chief Security Officer : Member Secretary

Vice-Chancellor has constituted a Committee to work out the modalities for making students aware of ill effects of drug addiction by arranging various programs, lectures and through important functionaries of the University who interact with the students regularly. The Committee constituted is as follows:

- Prof. Umesh A. Kadam, ADOS-I : Chairman
- Prof. Rajneesh Mishra, Provost, UK : Member
- Dr. Gautam Patra (SAG), Incharge Health Centre : Member
- Prof. Meeta Narain, Co-ordinator, Cultural Activities : Member
- Dr. Buddha Singh, ADOS-III : Member
- Dr. Poonam Kumari, Sr. Warden, Koyna Hostel : Member
- Dr. Anil Kumar, NSS Co-ordinator : Member
- Chief Security Officer : Member
- Mr. Ajay Kumar, Tech. Assistant (Yoga) : Member
- Dr. Praveen Kumar Bhati, : Member Secretary
- Medical Officer, Health Centre

Achievements / Awards



JNU adjudged best Central University

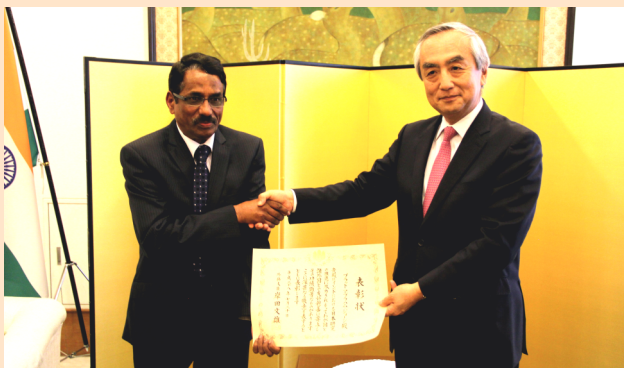
Jawaharlal Nehru University has won the 'Visitors Award' for the best Central University in India. President Pranab Mukherjee will present the award to Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar on March 6.

This is the third edition of the awards which were instituted in 2015 to promote healthy competition among universities.

Prof. Janardhana Raju, School of Environmental Sciences, has become Associate Editor of the Springer Journal Natural Resources Research for a term of 3 years.



Prof. P.A. George, Centre for Japanese Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, has been bestowed with the Foreign Minister's Commendation for the Year 2016, Government



of Japan, for his outstanding contribution to the development of Japanese Studies in India. The Ambassador of Japan presented the

award to Prof. George in a formal ceremony organized by the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi on 14th February 2017.

Participation in 9th Delhi state para Athletics Meet at Thyagraj Stadium New Delhi

JNU Team's participated in 9th Delhi state para Athletics Meet at Thyagraj Stadium New Delhi from 6-8 February, 2017. 8 medals were bagged by 6 member JNU team that participated in the 9th Delhi state Para Athletics Meet at Thyagraj Stadium New Delhi from 6-8 February, 2017. The medal winners were:



- (a) Nidhi Mishra (M.Phil/PhD-CHS/SSS): Gold in Discus Throw, Gold in Shot Put, Gold in 100m, (3 Gold medals)
- (b) Jeetu Kanwar (PhD, CSMCH/SSS): Gold in 400m, Silver medal in Long Jump, Silver in Javelin throw
- © Jyoti Singh (M.Phil/PhD, SIS): Silver in Discus throw, Bronze in Shot Put

In the selection trials held at Bahalgarh, Sonipat, Haryana from 8 to 9 February, 2017, Nidhi Mishra of JNU qualified in Discus Throw for the China Open Athletic Championships during April 2017. Nidhi Mishra holds the current national record in Discus Throw event in B-1 category since 2015.

It is noteworthy that the sports office has been assisting these athletes since 2014 with regard to providing coaching, budgeting, equipment, nutrition related counselling, entry fee and registrations, compiling past results, evaluation, etc.

**Vikram Singh, Assistant Director, PE
Coach and Team Manager**

Campus Activities

Rock Climbing Programme under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Scheme of UGC/MHRD

A team of 18 JNU students, selected after rigorous physical fitness training, participated in a 3 day basic Rock Climbing Program from 13 to 15 December, 2016 at Dhauj, Haryana. Pre-departure interaction cum certificate distribution programme was organized by the Sports Office on December 12, 2016, early morning in the sports complex. Rector-I JNU, Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Dean of Students, Prof. RP Singh, Chairperson, USC, Prof. Rizwanur Rahman were welcomed by the club members. Mr. Nipun Nutan (former JNUMC Convener) gave presentation about the JNUMC activities and accomplishments till date. The Rector, Dean of Students, and Chairperson, USC appreciated the efforts put in by the JNUMC. They all gave their best wishes to the



participants and encouraged the JNUMC to undertake more such activities. Dr. Vikram Singh, ADPE presented a vote of thanks in the end.

On day one, the team left JNU early in the morning (around 9.00 am) and reached Dhauj at noon. After a basic introduction with the instructor-cum-guide, the team started its different activities like bouldering, climbing, rappelling and traversing etc. After lunch, the team left the base camp to the nearby rock outcrops for bouldering. The team completed bouldering with full enthusiasm. After dinner a bonfire was arranged to share the first day's experience.

On the second day, the team completed climbing and rappelling. The team woke up at 5.30 in the morning, and did one hour physical training i.e. running amidst the rocky area and having a glimpse of the flora and fauna of this adventurous place. It was fun for many of the participants as this was a new experience for them. After breakfast, the group started climbing at 9.00 am. 18 participants climbed around 25 metres rock face. Later on, the team came back for lunch. After lunch, the group started rappelling and were surprised to learn that they had rappelled around 40 metres, the highest till now. Some of the participants had the opportunity to continue this activity even in the dark. Dinner was served followed by a feedback session of the day's activities. The group dispersed at 10.30 pm for sleep.

On day three, since this was the last day of the basic rock climbing programme, it was decided to turn it into enjoyment by

spending more time on the rocks and the rocky mountains. The group woke up at 6.30 in the morning, did yoga, followed by one hour of physical training. After breakfast, the team left for climbing using jumar and rappelling and continued till 4.00 pm. This was the most thrilling day as it was evident from the enthusiasm and dedication of the participants. The team had lunch at 4.30 pm. As the group started the return journey, it was overwhelmed by emotions. A few members suffered temporary sprain and strain but proper medication and rest helped them recover in a few hours. The group returned on December 15, 2016.

**Vikram Singh, Assistant Director
Physical Education, Sports Office**

JNU celebrated the 154th Birth Anniversary of the modern monk of India, Swami Vivekananda, on 12 January, 2017

JNU celebrated the 154th Birth anniversary of that modern monk of India, Swami Vivekananda, who flashed in the world the indomitable spirit of India, her power of spiritualism and, most importantly, instilled scientific temper in Indian thought. To honour such a giant Indian philosopher, Office of the Dean of Students, JNU, organized various sports and cultural activities, and lectures. The topic of a special panel discussion, "The Idea of



Oneness," attempted to capture the essence of what Swami Vivekananda espoused all his, but alas, a very short life. Shri Santosh Gangawar, Union Minister, Government of India, was the Chief Guest on this occasion. He emphasized "a massive transformation that India needed and which India is going through currently." He also talked about "bringing change in the society, in the status of women and taking along everybody in creating a new identity for India." JNU pays its tribute to this great son of India.

Rana P. Singh, Dean of Students

Club Inaugurals at JNU

Inauguration of JNU Cultural Clubs was held on 23 January, 2017 at SSS 1 Auditorium. This event was enthusiastically organized by the students body as it took place after a gap of several years and the students were encouraged to show their skills in the

event. The Dean of Students Prof. Rana Pratap Singh and Prof. Meeta Narain, Coordinator Cultural Activities Committee, inaugurated Clubs for this Winter Semester. Faculty members and those in charge of various clubs on the campus were present at the inauguration: Dr. Sheetal Sharma (Incharge – Debating & Fine Arts Club), Dr. SK Ishtiaque Ahmed (Incharge – Film & Literary Club), Dr. Gautam Kumar Jha (Incharge – Drama, Music & Dance Club) and Dr. Sudesh Yadav (Incharge–Nature, Wild Life Photography and UNESCO Club).The inauguration event was attended by the student's representative Mr. Amal PP as well.

Prof. R. P. Singh appreciated the efforts of Coordinator Cultural Activities Committee, Prof. Meeta Narain and others for reviving the Cultural Clubs and making the event successful. Prof. Meeta Narain, in her speech complimented all involved in organizing the event and acknowledged the cooperation she received from the students, faculty and administration in organizing the event. She appealed for greater participation in the activities of the Clubs and project them from time to time on the campus. During the inaugural session the Dance and Music Club gave a number of breath-taking performances.

The event saw an enthusiastic show of participation from the student community, despite the fact that there was an absence of election for Convenor and Co-convenor posts for each club. Now, with the inauguration, a total of 10 clubs have become officially functional. They are Drama, Music, Dance, Nature, Wild



Life Photography, UNESCO, Debating, Fine Arts, Film and Literary. The event laid foundations for each of the 10 clubs. Power point presentations were made to the present audience, giving detailed objectives and plans to be followed by various clubs and names of student coordinators along with their contact details were informed to all. FB pages and Whatsapp group details were also introduced for wider publicity.

A photography contest under the theme of 'JNU through my lenses' was conducted with an overwhelming number of participants. Also, a painting contest on 'Feminism and Art' was held on 20th of January. Exhibition of these paintings along with photographs was held outside the inauguration venue attracting score of students from School of Social Sciences and neighboring School of Environmental Studies.

Campus Activities

The membership drive began with the inaugural session and many from JNU student community registered themselves in clubs of their respective interests at the inauguration venue itself. The drive was decided to be further extended till 3rd of February.

The Cultural Clubs inaugural concluded with an optimistic note that the students body will from time to time project their potential and talent through the clubs in days to come. For any information regarding clubs, you can visit www.jnu.ac.in/students/clubs.

**Shubham Shankar, Convenor
Centre of Russian Studies, SLL&CS**

A Musical Evening at JNU

The JNU Music and Dance Club organized a musical evening with sarod recital by Pandit Biswajit Roy Chowdhury on 25 January, 2017 at 5:30 pm in the Convention Centre (Auditorium 1), on the eve of the 68th Republic Day.

The audience was welcomed by an opening speech by Prof. Meeta Narain (Coordinator, Cultural Activities Committee). This was followed by a rendition of Vande Mataram and Saare Jaahan Se Accha by the Music Club and a performance by the Dance Club.

The sarod maestro Pandit Biswajit Roy Chowdhury was introduced by Prof. Manjushree Chauhan (former Coordinator, Cultural Activities Committee). He is a disciple of the Maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and has performed in various locations all over India and participated regularly in some of the prestigious concerts such as Tansen Festival in Gwalior, the Shankar Lal Festival, New Delhi, the Harvallabh Sangeet Samaroha in Jalandhar, etc. Biswajit Roy Chowdhury is an acclaimed artist of the All India Radio and Doordarshan and has featured in the National Music Concert and the annual Radio Sangeet Sammelan. He was accompanied by Prashant Trivedi on the tabla and both enthralled the crowd by their interpretations of Raga Lalita Gauri and Raga Kafi.

The evening was attended by Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar (Vice Chancellor), Prof. Rana Pratap Singh (Dean of Students) and Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti (Rector II) along with other senior JNU

officials and faculty. It was greatly enjoyed by the audience, who gave the maestro a standing ovation. The University congratulated the Cultural Activities Committee, JNU for organizing such a wonderful musical event.

**Meeta Narain, Chairperson
Centre of Russian Studies,
Coordinator, Cultural Activities Committee**

JNU Basant Utsav 2017

On 18 February, 2017 Basant Utsav was organized for the first time on JNU Campus. This was organized by the Cultural Activities Committee, JNU and the Inter Hostel Administration. The Basant Utsav was organized with the aim of showcasing the traditions of craftsmen from all over India. This was done with the help of artisans and craftsmen from different Indian states who presented their skills under one roof. The Dastakari Haat Samiti, headed by Smt. Jaya Jaitley kindly agreed to bring in artisans from 15 regions. This included Angad terracotta, Rafiq metal craft, Madan Lal blue pottery, Naresh stationery, Heera Kanth papier maché, Rajesh jewelry, Anindo Sea shell, Umar Daraz paper craft, Himjoli soaps and oils, Amit Jutti, Ganpat wood craft, Sangeeta Kauna baskets, Ibrahim cotton suits, Saroj silver jewelry, Savita cotton kurtas and many more. Ms. Jaitley said, while inaugurating the event, that such events will promote the efforts of the artisans and the students should not only buy the products, but should know how and where these artisans come from and the hardwork behind their work. The Dastakari Haat Samiti also presented a colourful decoration to the entire utsav with their flag decorations, which covered the entire KC OAT and gave it a festive look.

In addition to this, there was participation by many NGOs like Navjyoti India Foundation of Ms. Kiran Bedi, Swabalambam Society who exhibited their products made by ladies and children depicting their fine arts skill. Government organisations like Khadi Gramodyog, exhibiting Khadi products of daily use, and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises were also present with their products and Design Clinic.

Since JNU has many cultural clubs, a programme of this type



Campus Activities

aimed to promote the handicrafts and products of the regions, which in turn could become a part of learning to our students. They can then hold workshops to present and learn from such artisans. Live workshops in the field of fine arts, photography, nature and environment can be arranged to promote these student clubs.

The Basant Utsav finale was an evening of cultural programme of dances by our students from 18 different States of India – Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Karnataka, Uttaranchal, Manipur, Jharkhand, Punjab and others. The audience was spellbound to see the diversity from different cultures and were glued till the end. The authentic food items with regional specifications, like Maharashtrian food, Karnataka food, Rajasthani and Punjabi food items added to the festivity.

The Basant Utsav was a big success and was appreciated by the JNU administration – The Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, appreciated the efforts of the Cultural Activities Committee, and said that this should become an annual feature. The Dean of Students, Prof. RP Singh also encouraged the efforts of the students and faculty members. The Rector-I, Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra was also present at the inauguration. After successfully organizing many cultural events of different types, the JNU Cultural Activities Committee headed by Prof. Meeta Narain said this would yet be another one in their list, which portrays the rich cultural heritage of India. She complimented the efforts of her team members – Dr. Sheetal Sharma, Dr. Sudesh Yadav, Dr. Ishtiaque Ahmad and Dr. Gautam Jha. The student representatives also were highly appreciated for their contribution towards the success of the Utsav. The electronic and print media gave good coverage to the event.

**Meeta Narain, Professor
Coordinator, Cultural Activities Committee**

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

On 23rd February 2017, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, and Professor Madan Gopal Seth, a permanent resident of USA and a citizen of India, to establish the “Sungum Sudhaar Scholarship Endowment” with Rs 300 lakhs as a corpus fund. Prof. Madan Gopal Seth's objective and wish to establish this endowment fund is to

support research and educational activities in areas of ancient Sanskrit literature dealing with philosophical studies of the Vedas and the Upanishads. Prof. Seth is an ardent supporter of the hidden treasures of the Vedic and Upanishadic literature and their deep philosophical meanings, which he considers as pillars of ancient Indian wisdom. The goal of this endowment is to support the best young minds at JNU to explain and spread the eternal values of the Vedic and the Upanishadic thinking which, as Professor Seth rightly believes, can dispel the darkness of ignorance, illuminate and spread the true knowledge for the benefit of all humanity.

For this purpose, the interest earned on the corpus fund will be utilized to fund 1 to 3 students every year pursuing their Ph.D. in JNU in the area of philosophical interpretation of Rigvedic thoughts. This endowment will also sponsor visit to JNU every



year of one international and one national scholar with expertise in Vedic studies for interaction with students and faculty, specifically those students who would be availing of this scholarship. After the signing of this important MoU and exchange ceremony, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor of JNU, felicitated Prof. Seth with a shawl and also a “Letter of Appreciation” for his generous contribution and noble philanthropic effort.

**Rupesh Chaturvedi, Director
Research and Development**

Seminars/Conferences

Workshop on “Corporate Social Responsibility in India: Incentives and Effectiveness”

A one-day international Workshop entitled “Corporate Social Responsibility in India: Incentives and Effectiveness” was jointly organized by Prof. Sangeeta Bansal, Centre for International

Trade and Development, School of International Studies, JNU, and Prof. Madhu Khanna, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, Chicago, USA, on December 8, 2016 at JNU Convention Center.

The objective of the workshop was to bring together academic scholars, business leaders and high-level government officials

Seminars/Conferences

to discuss the current status of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts by firms in India, the regulatory and voluntary incentives for it and its effectiveness in promoting sustainable development in India. Many leading firms world-wide undertake CSR voluntarily as a mechanism to demonstrate good faith efforts to benefit society by reducing harmful environmental impacts beyond levels required by regulation and contributing to social and economic development outside the boundaries of their operations. India became the first country to pass a law in 2013 making it mandatory for large firms to set aside at least 2% of their average profits for CSR expenditures. The goal of the workshop was to provide a forum for discussing the effects of the new CSR regulation on firm behaviour, the extent and types of CSR activities being undertaken by firms and the extent to which the CSR Act can lead to corporate contributions and to the economic development agenda of India. It provided a forum for exchanging ideas and mutual learning among diverse stakeholders. It also disseminated findings of the research project "Understanding Corporate Social Responsibility Expenditure in India: Effect of New Regulation Regarding Mandatory CSR" that is sponsored by SANDEE (South Asian Network of Development and Environmental Economics).

The Workshop was inaugurated by Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, the Vice Chancellor of the University, and had 11 distinguished speakers from places as far as USA and Australia, and also from Mumbai, Bangalore, Punjab and Delhi. The Workshop deliberated on various aspects of the CSR Act encompassing economic, social, legal, and ethical perspectives and implications.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kumar, inaugurated the Workshop by making a very important point viz., that the law on CSR by itself may not be sufficient to achieve the desired objective, it should be accompanied by individuals' conscious effort to act in a socially responsible manner. Prof. Madhu Khanna set the context by providing an overview of why firms spend on socially responsible initiatives, possible motivations for such behaviour, market and regulatory pressures for them in the developed countries drawing from international experience. Prof. Jayati Sarkar traced the journey of the CSR Act in India from the time it was announced as a voluntary initiative of firms to the time when it took the form of a mandatory regulation. She discussed various challenges, both at the institutional as well as firm level, that arise in the process of implementation of the Act. Prof. Sangeeta Bansal provided an assessment of the extent to which Indian firms are complying with the Act in the first year of implementation. She concluded that though the Act has an immense potential to contribute to the development agenda of the country, there is a long way to go for this potential to be realized. Prof. Shubhashis Gangopadhyay emphasized that for the Act to be useful, there must be a coordinated effort of the firms in consultation with the communities where CSR projects

would be implemented. Prof. Sandeep Gopalan shed light on the legal perspective of the CSR Act. Prof. Surender Kumar's talk added to the discussion by examining the determinants of voluntary environmental programs adopted by highly polluting firms in India.

The primary stakeholders of the CSR Act are corporations. We had representatives from Fluor India Ltd, Hindustan Unilever Ltd. and Brillio Technologies as speakers. Their talks provided further insights into how corporates perceive socially responsible initiatives, and how they conduct CSR projects. It was heartening to hear about the initiatives taken by these corporates towards their social responsibility, and that the corporates considered these initiatives as value addition to the firm.

The Workshop also had a session where young researchers were given an opportunity to present their research and get feedback on it. Each presentation was followed by lively interaction in all the sessions.

After a full day of deliberations on the CSR Act in India, we hope to have made a contribution to the discussion on the new regulation on mandatory CSR in India.

**Sangeeta Bansal, Professor
Centre for International Trade and Development, SIS**

3rd International Research Workshop in Cloud Computing

The School of Computer and Systems Sciences organized the 3rd International Research Workshop in Cloud Computing (RWCC-2016) on December 22-23, 2016 at Convention Centre, JNU. This was the third consecutive RWCC workshop being organized annually. Previous two workshops were more focused on Cloud aspect and Cloud related research issues. The focus of RWCC-2016 was more on Internet of Things (IoT) related research and technologies, as the Cloud world is evolving towards IoT.

Though Cloud computing is here since last many years, the discipline is not yet completely developed. As it has become a business model, numerous IT vendors promise to offer computation, storage, and application hosting services. Also to provide coverage in several continents, a service level agreement (SLA) is executed for their services. While these "clouds" are the natural evolution of traditional data centers, they are distinguished by exposing resources (computation, data, and applications) as standards-based Web services and following a "utility" pricing model where customers are charged based on their utilization of computational resources, storage, and transfer of data. They offer subscription-based access to infrastructure, platforms, and applications. Further, as the sensors are gaining prevalence, IOT is an upcoming area which needs Cloud for support.

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Researchers from India and abroad attended and demonstrated their research pursuits in the area of Cloud Computing and IoT related technologies. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Omkar Rai, Director-General, Software Technology Parks of India. The inaugural function was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar. The first day of the Research Workshop included many distinguished talks from Academia and Industry. Prof. Rajkumar Buyya, Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering and Director of the Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems (CLOUDS) Laboratory at the University of Melbourne, Australia gave the keynote address on "New



Frontiers in Cloud Computing for Big Data and Internet-of-Things (IoT) Applications". It was followed by a talk by a well-known researcher and Professor in Economics, Prof. Krishnendu Ghosh Dastidar, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU. He spoke on "On some aspects of scoring auctions". This was very relevant, as cloud resource provisioning extensively applies Auction/ Bargaining. The post lunch session on December 22, 2016 had three important talks by renowned researchers. Prof. Debashis Saha, MIS and Computer Science Group, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta, delivered the keynote on "Emerging Role of Cloud Computing in IoT-enabled Industry 4.0". Dr. Karthik Bharadwaj, CEO and Founder, megbase A Pvt Ltd, Sydney, Australia, spoke on "The Application of Cloud Computing and Internet-of-Things (IoT) in Energy Conservation and Efficient Energy Utilization". Dr. Satish Narayana Srirama, Head of Mobile & Cloud Lab, Institute of Computer Science, University of Tartu, Estonia delivered a talk on "Mobile and Cloud Centric Internet of Things".

The Next Day of the workshop started with a keynote by Dr. Geetha Manjunath, head, Data Analytics Research Group of Xerox Research Centre, Bangalore. She gave the industry touch and correlated Cloud and Big Data speaking on "Cloud requirements for Big Data Applications". The next to speak was Prof. Jemal H. Abawajy, Professor & Director, Distributed System and Security

Research Cluster, Deakin University, Australia. He delivered a keynote on "Energy-efficient cloud data-centre scheduling algorithm". A young professor from Sweden, Dr. Karan Mitra, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden spoke on "A Mobile Cloud Computing System and Probabilistic Cloud QoS Diagnosis and Prediction". A hands-on training session was organized by Dr. Anupinder Singh of Superwits Academy, Ludhiana, India. He started with an Introduction to CloudSim and its architecture, followed by simulating various scenarios using CloudSim. In this, he elaborated on how to test various research models developed for Cloud using CloudSim.

D.P. Vidyarthi, Zahid Raza
School of Computer and Systems Sciences

Report on Socio-Economic field Trip (RD 413), CSRD, Nagaon District, Assam

The Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, conducted a socio-economic field trip in Nagaon district of Assam for M.A. fourth Semester students (batch 2015-17). The trip was scheduled from 29 December, 2016 to 12 January, 2017. The main objective of the trip was to initiate the students to socio-economic realities at a grass-root level across different socio-economic and cultural backdrops. This was the first field trip of CSRD carried out in Assam. This led to the exposure of students to an altogether distinct and diverse cultural set up of north-eastern India.

The team consisted of 40 M.A. students and 3 Faculty members – Prof. Kaushal Kumar Sharma, Dr. Nandita Saikia, and Mr. Hemant Gautam. To overcome the communication problems, 9 local interpreters were engaged with the team. The study area covered the entire Nagaon district of Assam. Separate studies were conducted to examine the mosaic of urban as well as rural life. In the Urban section, a ward-level survey was undertaken to assess urban services within the Nagaon town. Along with that, individual topics of the urban system, including studies in public health, education, market conditions, women safety, status of squatters and slums along railway tracks and ecological studies based on kolong river were also covered. In case of rural studies, villages of Karbi tribes, a couple of traditional Assamese and Bengali villages were surveyed. To understand the economic structure of Nagaon, the cottage industry of Jewellery Making in the village of Ranthali Xunari, a Cooperative Jute mill in Silghat and both public and privately owned Tea Estates of Lungsung and Jiajuri respectively were visited. Associated with that, the tea estate's (Saloneh) labour colony was surveyed in order to highlight the living and livelihood conditions of the workers. The Tourism Sector was also taken into consideration through

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interactive studies carried out in two places known for Religious-Historical Tourism within Nagaon-Borduwa Than and Kamakhya Devalaya Temple, Silghat. We also visited the Kangthilangso Waterfalls in Karbi Anglong District in order to understand the development of Eco-Tourism in the area. Apart from the studies made by the students, 5 lectures and presentations by the local resource persons were organized.



The findings of the studies carried out were presented to the local MLA – Mr. Rupak Sharma as well as to the District Commissioner – Mr. Shamsher Singh and other top level bureaucrats present, on 10 January, 2017.

In the course of this trip the team visited the Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary. An interaction meeting was held with the District Forest Officer and Forest Ranger and other stakeholders. Prior to the visit an inspiring presentation about a lecture on “Mapping of Flora and Fauna and Conservation of Habitat of Burhachapori – Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary” was delivered by Dr. Smarajit Ojah, a geography professor of Nagaon Girls College. The team got a visual exposure of rich bio-diversity in this sanctuary. This trip provided students an opportunity to get intimate with the Assamese culture, cuisine, attires, traditional dance & music, festivals and other household traditions.

The overall study was wide-ranging giving the students an insight as well as exposure into the general socio-economic, political and cultural dynamics of a distinct environment and helps them to formulate plans and policies for further development of different socio-economic arenas of the study area.

**.Nandita Saikia, Assistant Professor
Centre for the Study of Regional Development, SSS**

'From the Margins: Personal and Collective Struggles in Québec'

The Canadian Studies Programme of the Centre for Canadian, US and Latin American Studies, School of International Studies,

Jawaharlal Nehru University, in association with Le Bureau du Québec à Mumbai and Université de Montréal organized screening and discussion of films on Québec on 10 January 2017 at the Convention Centre in Jawaharlal Nehru University. The programme was titled “From the Margins: Personal and Collective Struggles in Québec” and was the result of the initiative taken by the Visiting Professor Marie McAndrew from Faculty of Education, University of Montreal, and coordinated by Dr. Priti Singh from the Canadian Studies programme of JNU. This was a follow up of the film screenings that were organized on Québec in 2015 and had been very well received.

Prof. Abdul Nafey welcomed the audience to the film screening and appreciated the selection of movies calling them the perfect tool to educate people about political and social and issues. He thanked Prof. McAndrew for hosting the festival and selecting movies which highlight marginalization, resistance and hope and also help the audience experience a slice of Québec. Director-Consul Dominic Marcotte of Le Bureau du Québec à Mumbai and Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Rector of Jawaharlal Nehru



University also graced the event with their presence. Director-Consul Dominic Marcotte addressed the crowd by giving a brief introduction to Québec. He talked about the cultural and religious diversities that are similar in Québec and India and about Indian immigrants in Québec. He shared his delight in being part of the film screenings. Prof. Mahapatra thanked the organizers for the event that would spread awareness about Québec.

Three films, *Les Ordres* (1974), *Felix and Meira* (2014) and *La Grande Seduction* (2003) were screened with an introduction for each film given by Professor Marie McAndrew and followed by a short discussion. The first movie that was screened, *Les Ordres* (1974), is set during the October 1970 crisis. It is a poetic and lucid docudrama that shows the experiences of ordinary people from various backgrounds who were detained without formal charges under the War Measures Act. The War Measures Act passed by the Canadian parliament intended for use during wars

had been brought into force in October 1970 during peace time by prime minister Trudeau in reaction to the Liberation Front of Québec. It allowed suspension of civil liberties and personal freedom and thus directly affected about 500 people who were mainly social activists were detained and questioned. It is the first and the only Canadian film to receive the award for Best Direction at the Cannes Film Festival.

The second movie, Felix and Meira (2014), showcases two marginal characters living worlds apart in multiethnic Montreal who meet in this subtle and unlikely love story. The story revolves around a French Quebecker and an Hassidic Jew and the problems they face in coming together. The film won the Best Canadian Feature Film at the Toronto International Film Festival and was also the recipient of Special Prizes at the Torino and Haifa International Film Festivals. The Hassidic Jew community is an orthodox sect of the Jews that had immigrated to Québec in the 1970s and Montreal is the world's third largest centre for the Hassidic Jew community.

The third movie, La Grande Seduction (2003), is a hilarious comedy reflecting the challenges of rural area in a globalized world. The film is about the schemes put forward by residents of a tiny fishing village to lure a city doctor to take up full time residency there. It is a winner of six Genie Awards and the Audience Awards at Boston Film and Montreal Festivals.

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

Priya Natarajan and Tripti Chowdhury
M.Phil, Canadian Studies Programme, SLL&CS

AAJ Historians' Meet

Among the series of Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ) events, the first event of this year was AAJ historian meet which was held on 29 January, 2017. It was held at AAJ office (JNU Convention Center). The theme of this meet was History in Our Times. This meet started with the inauguration of AAJ library. It was a nice step to keep remembering alumni of JNU forever. The alumni library was a greatly appreciated initiative.

AAJ President Prof. Devendra Kumar Chaubey welcomed all the alumni of JNU and the scholars present here. Prominent alumni like Prof. Rakesh Tyagi, Prof. Raghvendra Das (RLD) as he was known to his batch mates were present. The president spoke about all the future plans of AAJ and shared the planned map of alumni guest house. He told us the importance of AAJ library and formation of AAJ. After this he invited Prof. Vijaylaxmi, the chief alumna to say some words. She said that "our motto is to keep alumni come in JNU and contribute one or the other ways". All types of suggestions from alumni in regard to studies, research,

extra-curricular activities, even in terms of hostels are welcome here. She requested all the alumni to keep in touch always and be there in their own way for their alma mater.

The participants of this meet were: Prof. Makhanlal, Prof. Rizwan Qaiser, Dr. Hitendra Patel, Savita Jha Khan and Dr. Jyoti Atwal, Prof. Makhanlal was the chief guest speaker here.

Dr. Syed Mubin Zehra was the convener of the meet and welcomed all the alumni present there. She said that it is a great beginning to gather everyone here and go back in time and speak about history in our times. She mentioned that this historians' meet was a great initiative to bring back alumni historians of JNU as JNU is known for its contribution to history not only in India but worldwide.

The historians' discussion started with Prof. Makhanlal's address. He touched various facts of history from ancient to modern times. He spoke as a guest speaker as he was a non



alumnus.

Then Prof. Vijaylaxmi gave a small but very significant lecture where she appreciated the candid experience sharing of Prof. Makhanlal. After that Prof. Rizwan Qaiser spoke.

Then Dr. Hitendra Patel spoke and he gave his lecture in Hindi. Dr. Jyoti Atwal's lecture covered issues like is 'Elitism' in natural history. It is past, future and present all combined in history. All history is written in contemporary time. There is need to know something different in the discontents of the nation.

Savita Jha Khan said that our empiricism has failed us. The midway between the myth and the fact is not possible and she also shared many personal historical experiences here.

After these very important lectures there was an open forum for questions, discussions and observations. Amitabh Prasad Sinha, Jyoti Atwal, Unita Sachidanandan, Sandesha Rayapa raised very important questions to understand the history in our times. The

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Chief speaker and other speakers answered them very nicely. The convener of the meet Dr. Syed Mubin Zehra insisted on the social responsibility of historians and scholars and the contribution of historians in our society. The event came to an end on a positive note with everyone agreeing on the responsible nature of history as a subject and historians as the arbitrators of that responsibility. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Sandesha Rayapa, and the event concluded with high tea.

**Devendra Choubey, President
Alumni Association of JNU**

“Interdisciplinary exchange on Russian culture”: an SAA and CRS, JNU collaboration

An event on the rich cultural heritage of Russia and India titled “Interdisciplinary exchange on aspects of Russian Culture: an SAA and CRS Collaboration” was held on February 10, 2017 in the SAA auditorium.

The event was organized jointly by the Centre of Russian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies and the School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU. There were presentations and papers on cinema, folklore and popular culture of Russia and India.

The event was attended by a large group of students of the graduate courses. The presentations were sectioned into three categories – Cinema, Folklore and Popular Culture of India and Russia. Scholars participated actively to explore the different aspects of Russian cinema – be it the representation of the communist/post Soviet society, depiction of women soldiers or traditional folk heroes. There were papers on the comparative study of beliefs and superstitions as well as folk tales and on Russian cuisine. An interesting presentation traced leftist ideologies within the popular visual culture of Bengal. The speakers were introduced by Dr. Suryanandini Narain, SAA. The presentations were as follows:

1. Dr. Sonu Saini: Comparing the Folktale 'The fox and the crane' through Russian and Indian Animation
2. Dr. Manuradha Chaudhary: Similarities and Differences in North Indian and Russian superstitions or beliefs
3. Konstantin: Cinema of Sergey Loban and Yuriy Bykov as the representation of ideological and imaginary "cultures" of post-soviet/communist Russian society in the XXI century
4. Sunita Acharya: Russian Cinema and Women Soldiers: An analysis of the contemporary film "Battalion"
5. Krishanu Nath: From an Artist's Diary to the Red Dome of the Minar: Tracing Leftist Ideologies within the Popular Visual Culture of Bengal

6. Mona Agnihotri: Nasruddin in Cinema: Journey from a Folk Hero to a Film Hero!

7. Dr. Anju Mehta: A Russian Meal

The guests and audience members were welcomed by Dr. Richa Sawant, CRS.

The event was inaugurated by the Dean SLL&CS, Prof. Rekha Rajan. Present at the occasion were Dean SAA, Prof. Bishnupriya Dutt and Chairperson CRS, Prof. Meeta Narain. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Rekha Rajan said that such an event was the first of its kind. She emphasized the commonalities between the two schools and said that it should be explored further. She especially encouraged research scholars to continue their studies in interdisciplinary areas.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Bishnupriya Dutt reminded the audience of how Russian theatre has, over the decades, brought together the cultures of Russia and India. This is also reflected in the ties between CRS and SAA, which go back a long time, she added.

Chairperson, CRS, Prof. Meeta Narain said that such an event provides a platform for exchange of ideas, especially for research scholars. It encourages in-house potential and gives them an opportunity to express ideas, which at times is not possible in large conferences.

After the presentations there was a cultural programme organized by members of the Cultural Activities Committee. The students performed folk dances of Russia and sang popular songs from Russian films. Post graduate students from the Institute of Asian and African Studies, Moscow State University, who were in JNU on an exchange programme also participated in the event and read poems and sang songs in Hindi.

**Richa Sawant, Centre Russian Studies, SLL&CS
Suryanandini Narain, School of Arts & Aesthetics,
Conveners**

Mid-Term Meeting 2017 of IFLA-RSCAO and one day seminar on “New and Innovative Library In & formation Services”

Central Library, JNU in collaboration with Regional Standing Committee on Asia and Oceania of International Federation of Library Associations organized its Mid-Term Meeting 2017 and one day seminar during 20 – 22 February, 2017 at JNU. The Mid-Term Meeting 2017 was held in the Committee Room of the Central Library during 20-21 February, 2017. The meeting was attended by committee members from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, Lebanon and Egypt. During the meeting various issues, action plans for the

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development of Libraries and Information Centres in Asia Oceania were discussed. On 22 February, 2017 a one day seminar on "New and Innovative Library & Information Services" was also organized. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Sachidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA). In his welcome note Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur, University Librarian, JNU presented a brief overview of various new and innovative library & information services rendered by the Central Library, JNU. Mr. Dharamvir, President, Association of Media Libraries and Archives (AMLA) and Ms. Jaishree Mamotra, Chair IFLA-RSCAO and Research Services coordinator, Charles Darbin University Australia also welcome the President. Ms. Rashida Begum Binti Fazal Mohammad, representative of IFLA WLIC 2018, extended the invitation to all present to attend the congress at Malaysia.



The first technical session of the seminar was started with a talk from Dr. Takashi Nagatasuka from TSURMI University, Yokohama, Japan on the topic "Trends of Research Data Management Services in Japanese Academic Research Libraries". This was followed by a talk by Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur, University Librarian, JNU on "Research Support Services in Academic Libraries: New and Innovative Services". It was followed by a lively discussions amongst participants, Speakers and Discussants, namely Dr. Sanjay Katariya, Bennet University Dr. Priya Rai, NLU, Delhi Ms. Dil Rukshana Basunia. The session was chaired by Dr. Fawz S. Abdallah Associate Professor, Lebanese University.

It was followed by a panel discussion on "Changing role of Media Libraries and Archives in meeting the information needs for 24x7 news services". Mr. Vijay Kanti, Senior Consulting Editor, DD News, Dr. R. K. Sharma, UNIC and Ms. Sunita Koya, Ramoji Knowledge Centre were the panelists. Mr. Dharamveer, President, AMLA moderated the discussion.

Technical Session 2 on "Recent Trends in Development in Libraries started with a talk on Evaluation, Death Information Industry: Recent Developments in Informatics and Knowledge Management" by Dr. Shawaky Salem, from Alexandria University, Egypt. Dr. Sushmita Chakravorti from University of Calcutta presented her talk on "Digital Challenges: Global Trends and Perspectives". The discussants Dr. G. Mahesh, NISCAIR, Dr. P. K. Jain, IEG, Dr. S. Ganguli, TERI, Dr. Lata Suresh, ICA and Mr. Shiva Chandran, AIIMS also presented their views on the topic. The session was chaired by Ms. Kalpana Dasgupta, Former Director, CSL.

Session 3 of the seminar witnessed some case studies presentations. The first case study was presented by Dr. Nabi Hassan, University Librarian, AMU, about the new and innovative services rendered by AMU Library. Dr. Raj. K. Bhardwaj from University of Delhi presented a case study about a Digital Library of Judicial and Legislative Information Resources in India called OLIS. Ms. Kavita Chadda, IIM Lucknow, Noida Campus presented a case study of her institute with a title "Libraries at Finger Tips". Ms. Revathi CD from Sanskriti School presented an overview of various new and innovative services provided to the students of her school. Mr. B. P. Singh, Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra presented a case study on "Managing research works using reference Management Tools". The session was chaired by Dr. Nabi Hasan, University Librarian, AMU.

The valedictory address of the seminar was delivered by Dr. Pramod Kumar, Registrar, JNU. Dr. Sushmita Chakarborty presented a brief report about the seminar. Mr. Ian Yap thanked the participants and expressed happiness over the successful organization of the event. The seminar provided a very new perspective about the Emerging Trends and Techniques in Libraries, particularly in rendering new and innovative services to the users. The seminar was attended by about 350 participants from all parts of India.

**Ramesh C. Gaur, Librarian
Central Library**

सागर - फिल्म गीतकार



मेरा जन्म उत्तर प्रदेश के बलिया जिले के ककरी गाँव में हुआ। प्रारंभिक शिक्षा बलिया से पूरी करने के बाद मैं उच्च शिक्षा के लिए बी. एच. यू. और जे. एन. यू. गया। जे. एन. यू. से एम. ए., एम. फिल. और पीएच. डी. की पढ़ाई पूरी की। मैंने त्रिलोचन शास्त्री के काव्य संग्रह 'ताप के ताए हुए दिन' पर एम.फिल एवं पीएच.डी की

डिग्री 'समकालीन हिंदी कविता में प्रतिरोध रू स्त्री काव्य लेखन के विशेष संदर्भ में' टॉपिक पर प्राप्त की। मैंने अपनी पीएच.डी साहिर लुधियानवी को समर्पित की है। २०११ में मैंने हिंदी फिल्म इंडस्ट्री में बतौर गीतकार के रूप में काम करने के लिए मुंबई की तरफ रुख किया। परिवार की आर्थिक स्थिति खराब होने की वजह से मुझे बचपन से ही तोड़ देने वाले संघर्षों का सामना कदम दर कदम करना पड़ा है।

दरअसल मैं अपने जन्म स्थान बलिया में बचपन के दिनों में ही बहुत मशहूर रहा। लोकजीवन के छोट-छोटे प्रतीकों और बिंबों को इतनी खूबसूरती से गीतों में ढालने की कोशिश की कि बात सबके दिलों में उतर जाए। भोजपुरी की समूची विधाओं में मैंने खूब मन लगाकर काम किया है। बिरहा, कजरी, सोहर, झूमर, चौता, फाग, जँतसार जैसी विधाओं पर अच्छी समझ और अच्छा लेखन है। मैंने खुद खेतों में सारे कार्य किए हैं। खेतों में मजदूरी भी की है। मैंने खुद औरतों के समूह में धान रोपते समय गीत गाए हैं।

व्यावहारिकता और अध्ययन दोनों ने मिलकर मुझे मुकम्मल गीतकार बनाया है। मैं बचपन से ही फिल्म इंडस्ट्री में गीतकार बनना चाहते था लेकिन साथ ही घर की आर्थिक स्थिति कमजोर होने की वजह से "करियर ओरियेंटेड" भी रहा। पूरे घर को मुझसे उम्मीदें थीं कि पढ़ाई करके घर के खराब हालात को सुधारे। इसलिए चैलेंजेज बहुत ज्यादा थे। इसलिए खूब मन लगाकर पढ़ाई की ताकि भविष्य में किसी तरह की असुरक्षा का भाव न हो।

गौरतलब है कि देश में जे. एन. यू. एकमात्र ऐसा संस्थान है जहाँ पहुंचने पर आत्मविश्वास कई गुना बढ़ जाता है। मेरी जिंदगी में बस यहीं से एक नया मोड़ आया। अपनी रचनात्मकता से जे. एन. यू. के तमाम स्टूडेंट्स और प्रोफेसर्स के दिलों में मैंने भरपूर जगह बनाई। अपने दौर में मैंने पूरे कैंपस को भोजपुरी के रंग में रंग डाला था। जे एन यू के ट्रिपल एस ऑडिटोरियम के एक नेशनल स्तर के कवि सम्मलेन में मैंने एक भोजपुरी कविता पढ़ी जिसका असर यह था कि कंदारनाथ सिंह जैसे बड़े कवि ने हिंदी अखबार हिंदुस्तान में अनाम रूप से ही सही उस कविता की प्रस्तुति पर एक लेख लिख दिया जो लेख उनकी किताब 'कब्रिस्तान में पंचायत' में 'शहरों में

जीवन की लय' नाम से है। मेरे लिए अपार खुशी की बात यह रही कि मेरे गानों को सुनकर नागालैंड और तमिलनाडु के हिंदी भी न समझने वाले स्टूडेंट्स इनके लिखे भोजपुरी गाने गाते थे। उस वक्त के वाइस चांसलर जी. के. चड्ढा भी मेरी भोजपुरी कविताओं के दीवाने थे जो अपने चैंबर में बुलाकर मुझसे भोजपुरी कविताएं सुनते थे और कभी-कभी आर्थिक मदद भी करते थे।

फिल्म इंडस्ट्री मेरी शुरुआत भोजपुरी फिल्मों से ही हुई। मेरी पहली फिल्म "गंगा किनारे प्यार पुकारे" है।

राकेश जैन के निर्देशन में मेरी पहली हिंदी फिल्म "ये स्टुपिड प्यार" है जिसका टाइटल सॉंग मैंने लिखा था और आवाज दी थी श्रेया घोषाल ने, संगीत विपिन पटवा का था और यहीं से मेरी और संगीतकार विपिन पटवा की जोड़ी बनी जो अब तक कायम है।

दसवीं फिल्म अभी जल्द ही रिलीज हुई "लाली की शादी में लड्डू दीवाना" है जिसके डायरेक्टर मनीष हरिशंकर हैं और कलाकार अक्षरा हासन, विवान शाह और गुरमीत चौधरी हैं।

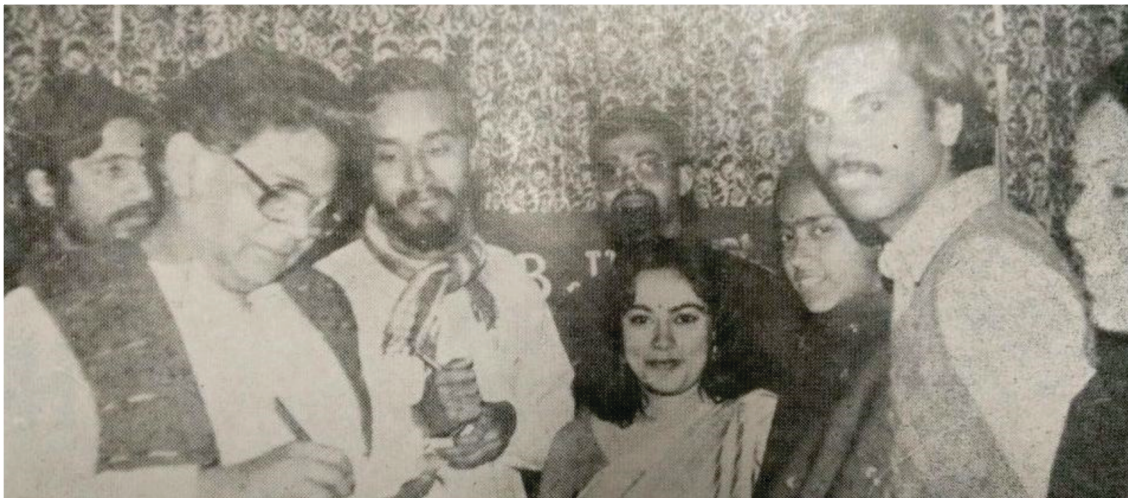
कविता लेखन और गीत लेखन में बहुत फर्क है। कविता लेखन में कवि की मनमर्जियाँ चलती हैं लेकिन फिल्मी गीतों के साथ ऐसा नहीं है। फिल्म की स्क्रिप्ट पढ़कर और उसके सिचुएशन को समझते हुए एक खास दायरे के अंदर सोचना होता है और साथ ही प्रोड्यूसर और डायरेक्टर के मिजाज को समझते हुए आगे बढ़ना होता है। और इसके अलावा म्यूजिक डायरेक्टर की धुनों की बंदिशों के हिसाब से चलना होता है यानी कि एक साथ प्रोड्यूसर डायरेक्टर स्क्रिप्ट और म्यूजिक डायरेक्टर की बंदिशों के तहत रहते हुए एक गीत को कम्प्लीट करना होता है। अक्सर यह सवाल चलता रहता है कि पहले गीत लिखा जाता है या पहले संगीत बनता है एक गाने को बनाने में। एक छोटे से उदाहरण से इस मुद्दे को हल किया जा सकता है। लोक जीवन में आटा चक्की चलाती हुई औरतें जो उसकी घरर घरर की लय पर गाना गाती हैं वो दर असल पहले वह घरर घरर की धुन ही आई होगी वजूद में और वह धुन इतनी अपील की होगी कि उसकी लय पर गीत गाया गया होगा। फिल्म इंडस्ट्री में वैसे गाने बनाने के दोनों तरीके अपनाये जाते हैं। कभी तो गीतकार गाना लिख देता है जिसपर म्यूजिक डायरेक्टर धुन बनाता है और कभी म्यूजिक डायरेक्टर धुन बना देता है जिसपर गीत लिखा जाता है। हर गीतकार और संगीतकार को इस प्रक्रिया से गुजरना होता है। इस तरह से मैंने बालीवुड में अपनी एक जगह बनायी है। मैं अपनी सफलता का सारा श्रेय जे. एन. यू. के दोस्तों और प्रोफेसर्स को देता हूँ। मेरा मानना है कि उनकी मदद के बगैर मुंबई में टिकना असंभव था। जे. एन. यू. के उन सभी साथियों का एहसान मैं अच्छे गीत लिखकर चुकाने की कोशिश कर रहा हूँ।

**डा० गंगा सहाय मीना
से बातचीत पर आधारित**

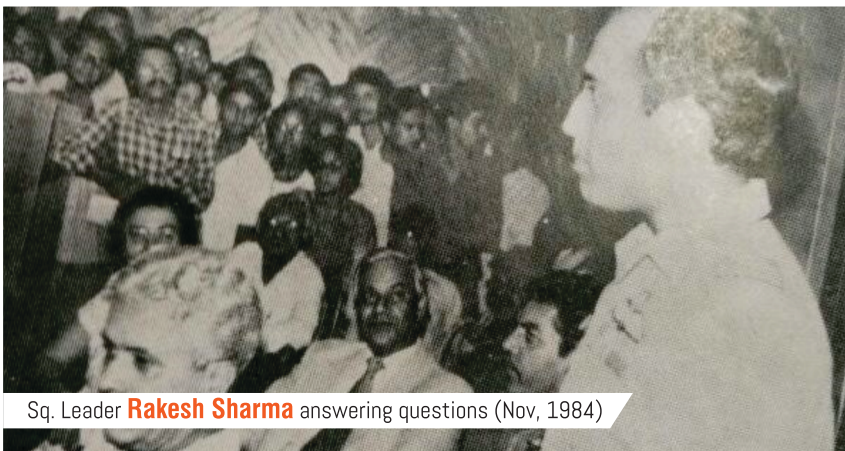
Eminent visitors to JNU



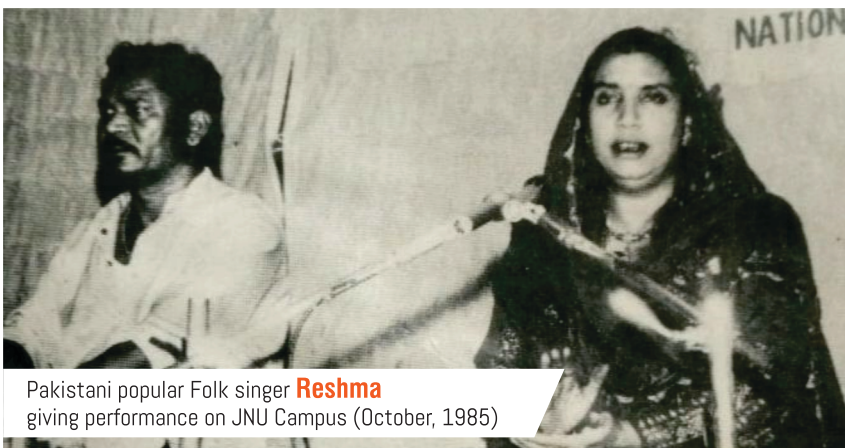
JNU NEWS



▶ **Sahitya Akademi Award Winner,**
Mr. Sunil Gangopadhyaya among the JNU students (April, 1986)



Sq. Leader **Rakesh Sharma** answering questions (Nov, 1984)



Pakistani popular Folk singer **Reshma** giving performance on JNU Campus (October, 1985)



Kiran Segal who gave a lovely Performance of Bharata Natyam at JNU Campus (April, 1985)

Our Publications

Report: Book Release

The Book entitled *Crisis and Promise in the Caribbean: Politics and Convergence* (Routledge, 2016), by Winston Dookeran, was released on 7 January, 2017 in the Committee Room, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi by



R. Rajagopalan, Indian diplomat and former Ambassador to Guyana, Cuba and Morocco, at a glittering academic function attended by scholars, academics and diplomats. HE Dave Persad, the High Commissioner Trinidad & Tobago, former Indian High Commissioners to Trinidad & Tobago, Malay Mishra (2009)

and Gauri Shankar Gupta (2013), and HE Ashna Kanhai, Surinam's Ambassador in New Delhi were among the distinguished guests on the occasion.

The introductory remarks were delivered by Prof. Abdul Nafey, the pioneer of Latin American Studies in India. Winston Dookeran addressed the gathering and delivered a lecture, drawing largely from the book, on the unique promises and the challenges that face the Caribbean today.

The book was released later in the august presence of several scholars and administrators of the University by the Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar. Prof. Abdul Nafey, Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Rector JNU, Prof. K.P. Vijayalakshmi, Chairperson, Centre for Canadian, US and Latin American Studies and faculty members Dr. Priti Singh and Dr. Aprajita Kashyap, and Dr. Girish Nath Jha, Director, International Collaboration, JNU were present at the function that followed a high-tea by the Vice Chancellor for the honourable guest and author.

**Aprajita Kashyap, Assistant Professor
Latin American Studies Centre for Canadian,
US & Latin American Studies, SIS**

Alumni Corner



Interview with **Dr. Ahsan Ul Rehman Rizvi** (Assistant Prof. in Arabic), Department of Higher Education, Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

Dr. Rizvi: I moved to JNU in July, 2006, from Jamia Millia Islamia after doing my PG in Arabic.

Although, prior to my joining JNU formally, I used to make frequent visits to the central library of JNU getting access to rare books and journals while studying at JMI, New Delhi.

From July 2006 to December 2009, till I joined the Higher Education Department of Jammu and Kashmir, I have been there as a student of M.Phil/ Ph.D program in the Centre of Arabic and African Studies, School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies. This time of my student life was very useful, constructive and a golden period of my life. So, I feel very lucky to get this opportunity for being a part of the JNU community.

Mushtaq: What was your first impression about JNU?

Dr. Rizvi: I remember the day when I was standing in a long queue waiting for my turn to submit my admission form observing the kindness and affection shown towards applicants by the

university authority and working staff, which is something I have never experienced before. The detailed episode is that when my application form was being scrutinized by the Asstt. Registrar (Admissions) at that time, he found some deficiencies in the form. Firstly, he himself got a document of mine photocopied and attested, then during his lunch time, wrote a confidential letter to the Controller of Examinations of JMI to provide him the status of my final result of MA, which remained awaited till the last date of admission at JNU. Ultimately I got relaxation when I was given 15 days more to produce all the required documents for admission.

Mushtaq: How was the culture, politics and environment of JNU at that time and how it has changed over the years?

Dr. Rizvi: It is quite dissimilar from other campuses of Universities where people are judged by their external appearance and not by their intelligence.

The most remarkable segment of JNU is the liberal political belief and aspiration. Reverberating echoes of different slogans are still alive in my mind. It was also very inspiring to attend the UGBM (University General Body Meet) debates of contestants

for presidential post of the University Students Union as well as post-dinner dialogues cum question answer sessions held in different messes. It was very beneficial to exchange views and thoughts on burning issues of the country and worldwide current affairs. Such interactive dialogues were organized in a simple way though prominent national and international politicians, reformers and academicians commonly participated there.

For me, JNU was one of the most peaceful, safe and secure places in our country. When I decided to join JNU again in 2014 for completion of my Ph.D. I got another opportunity to spend some more time there after getting Teacher Fellowship Award under FIP scheme (Faculty Improvement Programme) of the UGC, it was very unfortunate to see that, with the passage of time the traditional and cultural uniqueness of JNU is disappearing and a little change has accrued in the way of JNU life due to so-called upgradation of cafeterias, street lights and cemented pavements instead of Dhabas, self-explored forest footpaths, natural moonlight, fresh breeze and much more.

Besides this, a number of political and communal clashes took place in the name of nationalism and patriotism which are well known to everyone.

Mushtaq: What is the role of JNU in shaping your career?

Dr. Rizvi: JNU has played a very important role in several ways to shape my career. I started my career with the Higher Education Department of J&K in Dec, 2009. After my selection as an Asstt. Prof. of Arabic. I got de-registered myself from JNU for four years and again joined JNU from Jan. 2014 to Jan. 2015 to complete my Ph.D.

It is pertinent to point out here that it is all due to the noble assistance and cooperation of teaching faculty of JNU, especially my supervisor Professor Mohd. Aslam Islahi (Former Dean of SLL&CS) whose unflinching support cannot be forgotten.

As a result, proper guidance from my teachers, supervisor and parents provided me opportunities for becoming able to identify my own position to attain the objectives of my life. Consequently in my opinion, getting a chance to attend JNU and its peaceful environment has provided me a solid platform to shape my career.

The central library of JNU having a rich collection of both reference books as well as text books is the best place for researchers to acquire knowledge and to quench their educational thirst.

JNU is not an institute to offer different types of courses to get jobs and earn livelihood only but it also creates a sense of tolerance, open-mindedness, and above all a responsible and humble citizen. At heart, I am still attached with JNU which will always remain my first preference for attending UGC Orientation and Refresher Courses.

Mushtaq: What is the role of JNU in nation building and how it is contributing in that field?

Dr. Rizvi: JNU is listed among the best institutions of the world. After living in the ambience of JNU, a large number of JNUites are rendering their august services not only countrywide but across the globe. JNU has set a unique example for other Indian universities by producing lots of competent IAS and IPS officers, efficient academicians, influential politicians and talented journalists who are serving the nation very honestly. Reflection of their positivity, sense of accountabilities and academic qualities are known at a large scale because of their individual style of interpretation on different issues.

Mushtaq: What would you say about the academic excellence of JNU?

Dr. Rizvi: JNU has a team of well qualified and sincere faculty. They got popularity among their disciples due to the objectivity of their teaching methodologies. The teaching staff stands above the national, ethnic, linguistic and religious discrimination and narrow-mindedness. Their main concern is to deliver the message of moral values, communal harmony and solidarity. They make efforts to adorn the future of their students without any greediness and reward of admire.

As I have mentioned earlier about the cooperation of teaching and clerical staff of JNU, similar support is offered from library and hostel attendants' side too. I will always miss that; I must appreciate and offer my thanks to them for maintaining such a culture of compassion and kindness towards newcomers/outsiders.

Mushtaq: Any personal experience you wish to share of your days in JNU?

Dr. Rizvi: After completing my study from JNU, it is my personal experience that before coming to JNU whenever I visited my hometown I was feeling ashamed to work at home, even to bring food stuff and vegetables from market, which caused my father to take care of all little works at home. This was the fact of the time when I was studying at JMI and SNP College, Azamgarh. But, after doing doctorate and becoming JNUite this attitude has changed and my ego did not pose any obstacle in the way of my works, small or large.

Being a JNUite, I want to give the same message to the younger generation that no work in life is 'small'. JNU has also taught me that any work in life be accomplished efficiently and competently without caring of what people will say.

After getting enrolled as a student at JNU, the biggest gift for me, is the "aptitude and thinking perception" that I was bestowed. The thought, that there is only one way to resolve the religious and worldly oppression for getting rid of misery, i.e. enriching wealth of education with sensibility.

Excellent enactment pertaining to religious affairs inside of JNU campus cannot be forgotten. JNU atmosphere did not flourish any religious prejudices. The whole campus was peaceful. All classes of students/scholars lived like a united family. In my circle of friends there were many Hindus and Christians who had treated me like a brother. On the occasion of religious festivals we used to invite each other to share mutual happiness, such memories are still fresh. I remember the evening scene of the holy month of Ramadan to break our fast on the same table as well as offering warm greetings on the occasion of Eid Milan or extending our best wishes on Diwali and Holi celebrations.

How can I forget JNU? It is not just that I have spent a long and memorable period of my time, but it is also a fact that this period was very pleasant and progressive as well as free of grievances and dark despairing thoughts.

The teachers were enthusiastically prepared for transmission of thoughts with their students. I believe it is not important how much a teacher has knowledge of his subject, but it is more important how much he or she is serious to forward it to others. It may be the slightest thing but if it is conveyed honestly, results come very satisfactory.

Mushtaq: Any message for the JNU community?

Dr. Rizvi: In the present time the means and resources of communication have been boosted considerably. Some immature students are in hurry to gain fame by availing benefit of social media and other things, which damages their capabilities. A seed must be buried in a suitable soil for a time before it grows up and bears fruit or becomes a strong tree. It is useless to expect for production if a seed is kept open in sunlight. Many of my friends stopped their study when they got any opportunity for jobs during their course, but after realizing their loss they left the jobs and returned back to continue their studies.

Hence, if individual circumstances allow, it is better to concentrate on studies and after its completion, think about employment or anything else depending upon one's own interests. Seeking knowledge extends to the whole life. Whatever external conditions prevail, one should never get disappointed and should continue struggling for his/her goal.

To conclude my views about my Alma Mater JNU, I offer my best wishes to the whole of the JNU community for their bright future and successful careers.

Obituary



Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, former Vice-Chancellor of JNU, passed away on Tuesday, 14 February, 2017. He was 71. A noted economist, he served as the 10th VC from 2005-2011.

Born in Assam, he was also former director and Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, and former Professor, Indian Institute of Management-Lucknow (Noida Campus). He was a consultant to bodies such as the World Bank and the IMF



Shri R.S. Tripathy, Daftry, Academic Branch, passed away on Monday, 06 February, 2017

We extend our condolences to the bereaved families.

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

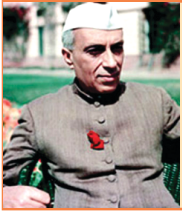
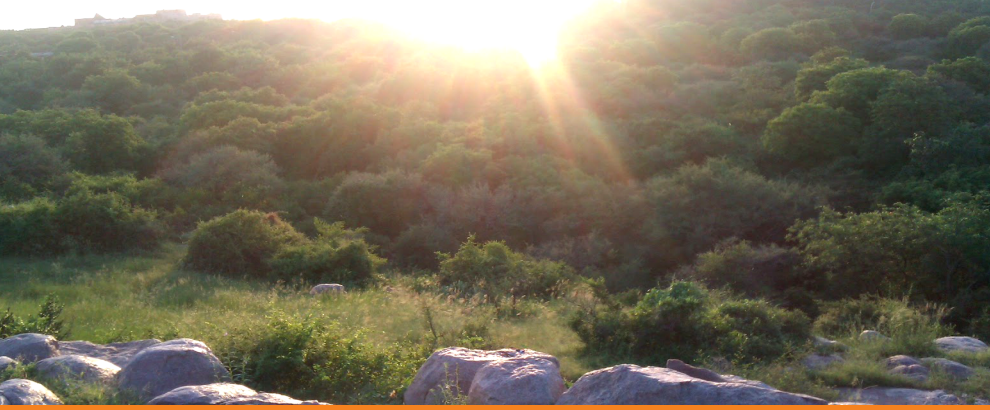
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Please attach a passport size photograph also.



विश्वविद्यालय की विशेषताएँ होती हैं, मानववाद, सहिष्णुता, तर्कशीलता, विचार का साहस और सत्य की खोज। विश्वविद्यालय का काम है उच्चतर आदर्शों 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

Republic Day Celebration on 26 January, 2017



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