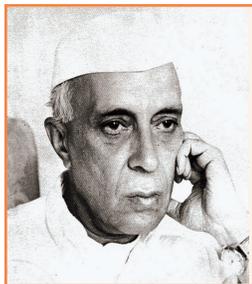




Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



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.

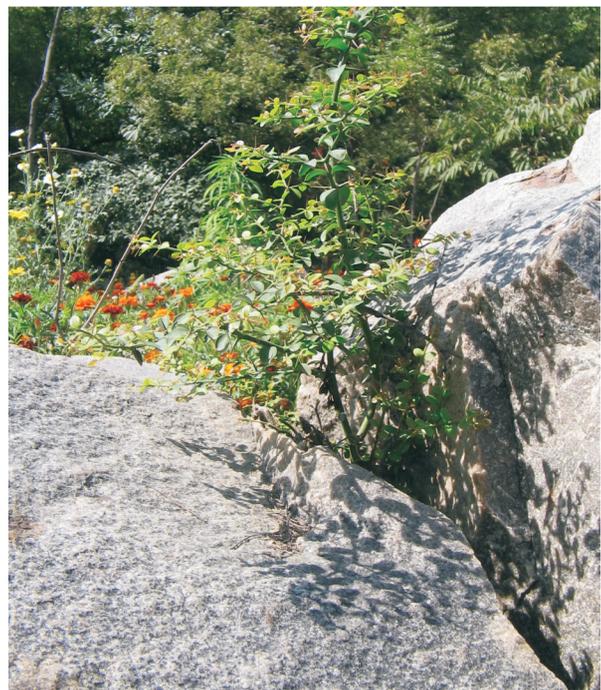
Jawahar



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.

Contents

- ◆ In conversation with 2-4
- JNU News interviewed New Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sudhir Kumar Sopory 2
- ◆ Movement 4-5
- ◆ Achievements/Awards 5-6
- ◆ Campus Activities 6-8
- जेएनयू एलुमिनाई मीट में मिले पूर्व व वर्तमान वीसी 6
- "फैज हमें सच बोलने का साहस देते हैं," फैज अहमद फैज के जन्मदिन पर 7
- Second Youth Film Festival 7
- XI Annual Yoga Competition 2010-2011 8
- ◆ Seminar/Conference 9-14
- Seminar on "Spectroscopic Investigation of Protein Aggregation" 9
- Workshop on "Water Resources: Impact on Agriculture, Health and Environment" 9
- Sixth Sat Paul Memorial Lecture 10
- International Conference on "Global Infectious Diseases" 10
- Lecture on "Faiz Ahmad Faiz: The Man and His Art" 11
- Conference on "Human Right issues in Venezuela" 11
- Lecture on "Point of Compass: Hafiz's Position in the History" 11
- National Seminar on "Minorities and the Margins: Colonial Encounter" 13
- ◆ Our Publications 14-15
- Book Release 14
- Doing Gender Doing Geography: Emerging Research in India 14
- Hindi Translation of a Spanish Anthology 15
- List of Publications 15
- ◆ Our Scholars 16-18
- ◆ Alumni Corner 18
- An interview with Dr. Sumangala Damodaran, Associate Professor 18
- ◆ Photo Gallery 19-20



JNU News interviewed New Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sudhir Kumar Sopory



JNU NEWS: Welcome back to JNU, this time as Vice Chancellor. The first question I would like to ask is how you feel about this transition from being a scientist in a laboratory to being the Vice Chancellor of this University, which is a purely administrative job?

VC: This transition was never planned. I was taken by surprise by this offer. In science you keep planning to see how an experiment will succeed. To me administration is like an experiment. In scientific experimentation you may fail and re-plan. In an administrative setup there is no choice but to succeed. So you have to plan in such a way that whatever one has thought of in terms of getting results, one has to achieve that. I have already set some targets and I have to work to successfully achieve those. It is going to be a challenge of a different kind altogether. Of course I am going to continue with my academic activities side by side. I have taken up this challenge to achieve desired results which hopefully will benefit a larger academic community.

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

VC: As of now I don't have any academic position here but this is something I would like to do. I may take some classes in the School for Life Sciences if permitted. It would be nice if I could do that but not at the cost of my administrative duties. Research wise I would love to collaborate with faculty here as well as institutions outside. In fact, I try to find some time in the early morning to keep myself updated with publications in my research area. I think this would continue for sure, aside from all the other work I have to do as the Vice Chancellor.

JNU NEWS: You had mentioned earlier that you have a very clear cut idea of what you want to achieve. So what are these targets you have in mind?

VC: I think we want an extremely efficient administrative setup here. That is something that others in the university depend on and unless we are able to resolve issues and respond to the demands of the faculty, staff, colleagues and students of the university, we cannot function smoothly. Administrative improvement is one of the basic aims. I wish to have an Administrative Reforms Committee to see how we can utilize the available manpower in the best possible way. Utilization of manpower to deliver the results is a major

priority. The other priority is academic improvement. We want all the schools and centres to raise their bar in terms of productivity, publication quality etc. I want them to match the best in their field. I would also focus on setting up of more interdisciplinary research & courses and I have been talking to faculty regarding this. I have even given a challenge to students and research scholars to develop courses which can be offered as audit courses. We can develop our resources through student participation and this is something I think we can achieve. Another point is to highlight the research work of the JNU faculty, the books and articles they publish the research they have done, to the outside world. The best part of JNU is still not known to the public at large.

JNU NEWS: JNU has been in the papers recently for a lot of reasons and mostly for the wrong ones. What do you think can be done in the short and long term to preserve the tradition of JNU while countering such tendencies that have given rise to these problems and debates?

VC: I think we have to continue to have a dialogue with the students. Recently, when some controversies and issues came up, not only the wardens and faculty but a lot of students themselves said that this is something that has gone wrong. I think the majority of students are very responsible and they do understand the value of freedom. Of course there are a few who tend to misuse this freedom. This happens everywhere and JNU being a part of the society, that is reflected here also. Even if you go out on the road there are laws governing our conduct but some people tend to break and disregard them and that creates chaos. There is freedom in JNU but within this freedom every society has to accept certain norms which must be followed in order to maintain a congenial atmosphere on campus. We will keep dialogue open with students. As far as the other things in JNU like the open lectures, meetings and discussions are concerned, they can continue. So long as meetings are peaceful and in the right spirit. What we need to do is to draw a line beyond which this freedom cannot be misused. We are a democratic nation but we have to keep in mind that even in a democracy one has to follow some rules and regulations, otherwise the society will collapse.

JNU NEWS: There is this continuous debate going on about the JNUSU. You just said that a dialogue should be there between students and the administration but who is to represent the students? Do you think you can do anything about the students' union elections?

In conversation with.....

VC: I want JNUSU elections for many reasons. One of the reasons is that then I have the representative of students to talk to. I have many things in mind about ways in which I would like to help the students but currently I don't have a direct means to reach them. As a Vice Chancellor I cannot directly interfere with the process. All I can do is support and guide them I hope this issue can be resolved and elections can be held soon.

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

VC: I had discussions with officers who are directly involved with this like the Dean's office, the Engineering department etc. Currently my focus is to get the Koyana II hostel ready by July 2011. Although because of the time lapse the cost and other expenditures have gone up yet we are trying to get funding so that we can finish the building work as soon as we can. However, the problem is that the old hostels and houses are also not in a good condition. That is where we need to get more money. I visited some hostels and I know that things are not how they should be. We need to provide them with better facilities.

JNU NEWS: What do you think about the fact that our campus is still not a wireless campus yet?

VC: I did talk to the concerned committee about this and asked them to make a presentation. They have informed me that the optical fibre lines have already been laid and the Wi-Fi system will get going shortly, hopefully. I want to get this facility working within 3-4 months. Infrastructure is a major priority and we are trying to find all the ways and means to get more funding from the UGC to start working on the hostels, computer centers, staff quarters and public facilities as well. A lot of committee rooms, classrooms and offices are in bad shape and we need to provide excellent academic facilities to the students. Instead of somebody complaining, Administration will have to be proactive to identify the problems and get working on them beforehand.

JNU NEWS: A lot of staff have retired or are retiring soon and we don't see any replacement for them. Are you thinking about training, promotions etc.?

VC: That is a major issue because most of the people in such posts and areas are specialised and cannot be switched from one place to another. I am trying to make a list of the people who are going to retire in the next six months or so and possibly

try to have recruitments done on time. These selections are going to be done soon so that this problem of manpower deficit is sorted out.

JNU NEWS: When we are talking about recruitment, one of our greatest problems is that we are short of teachers. Many departments and centres are running at half strength. There is a lot of research going on but very limited number of people to guide and supervise the students. Again, have you thought about how to set this situation right?

VC: This is a very serious problem. As we are a research oriented university the need for more teachers to guide the students and give them individual attention is even more important. I know that at this moment there are a lot of centres where one member of the faculty is supervising as many as 10 to 12 students or even more. This is very disappointing and needs to be resolved. There are complexities relating to issues on reservation for teaching posts but I am hopeful that these can be resolved by the Academic Council and Executive Council keeping in mind the UGC regulations and also preserving the academic excellence of JNU.

JNU NEWS: Also, the classrooms in many schools are not of adequate size. They are not big enough to accommodate all the students. Have you looked into this as well?

VC: I agree with what you have said and there is a need to resolve these issues as soon as possible. We cannot do well without a good infrastructure as I said earlier. There are however, new buildings coming up where I think the classrooms have been planned keeping in mind the number of students.

JNU NEWS: You said a lot of things about academics, so what is your academic vision for JNU, what would you like to see by the time you leave as a Vice Chancellor of JNU in five years time?

VC: I want the faculty as well as students to be at par with the best and for that I want them to increase the quality of their publications and research. I would also like to see more professors with a stature like they had when JNU had just started and see people of that repute in the university. Also, I would like to keep JNU number one in terms of academics. We must also need to plan for the future. How much do we need to and want to expand? In what areas do we need to expand? There will be pressures at different times but we need to decide what to focus on. This happens to all the universities, the more you expand the courses and programmes the more you need the infrastructure to keep pace with that expansion. What we need is a focused expansion otherwise we will keep living with complaints. Only creating new centres is not going to

In conversation with.....

help as long as we don't have the infrastructure to support these centres. I would like to see a more planned development for academic excellence. I want to see JNU amongst top 100, atleast in some areas.

JNU NEWS: You have lived on the campus before. What changes do you see on the campus?

VC: More buildings, more trees and more students. When we were here earlier, although it was growing then as well, we

could manage to have more interaction amongst faculty and students which perhaps is missing now. I find the happiness index is low. May be we can have more joint programmes for teachers as well as students so that we have more cultural and academic interaction between them. I want to see JNU a more culturally and academically a vibrant campus.

JNU NEWS: Thank you Vice Chancellor for sparing the time for JNU News. We wish you the best and hope you can achieve your aims here.

Corrigendum

It is to inform that the entry made under "Retirements/Resignations" in the MOVEMENT Column of JNU News 2010 (6) issue in respect of Prof. Shashiprabha Kumar, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies may be treated as cancelled.

Movement

NewDean/Chairpersons/Proctor/Advisor

- ◆ Prof. C.S. Raj as Dean, School of International Studies
- ◆ Prof. V.V. Krishna as Chairperson, Centre for Studies in Science Policy, School of Social Sciences
- ◆ Prof. Arun Kumar as Chairperson, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences
- ◆ Prof. A.K. Patnaik as Chairperson, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies
- ◆ Prof. R.P. Singh as Chairperson, Centre for Philosophy, School of Social Sciences
- ◆ Prof. S.S. Jaswal as Chairperson, Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies
- ◆ Prof. Y.K. Tyagi as Chairperson, Centre for International Legal Studies, School of International Studies
- ◆ Prof. B.K. Khadria as Chairperson, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences
- ◆ Prof. Kum Kum Roy, Centre for Historical Studies as Director, Women's Studies Programme, School of Social Sciences
- ◆ Prof. H.B. Bohidar, School of Physical Sciences, shall continue for full term as Chief Proctor
- ◆ Dr. Rakesh Kumar Tyagi, Special Centre for Molecular Medicine as Proctor
- ◆ Prof. Sonajharia Minz, School of Computer & Systems Sciences as Chief Advisor, Equal Opportunity Office

Retirements/Resignations

- ◆ Prof. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences
- ◆ Dr. Jennifer Jalal, Assistant Professor, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance
- ◆ Prof. Kanti Prasad Bajpai, Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies
- ◆ Prof. Balasundaram Subramanian, Centre of German Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies
- ◆ Shri V.K. Manchanda, Section Officer, Bill Section-II, Finance & Accounts Department
- ◆ Shri. Dilsukh Ram, Section Officer, Lohit Hostel
- ◆ Shri. S.P. Sharma, Administrative Officer, School of Computer & Systems Sciences
- ◆ Shri Chinmay Basu, Reprographic Assistant, Communication and Information Services
- ◆ Shri. Sangram Singh Rawat, Semi Professional Assistant, Central Library
- ◆ Dr. Satya Bhushan, Statistical Assistant, SC/ST Cell.
- ◆ Shri. Shiv Kumar, Electrician, Engineering Branch
- ◆ Shri Nanda Ballabh, Electrician, Engineering Branch
- ◆ Shri Prakash Chand, Havaladar, Security Branch

Movement

Prof. Sudhir Kumar Sopory is JNU Vice-Chancellor



Prof. Sudhir Kumar Sopory has joined as eleventh Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, taking charge on 28 January 2011. Prof. Sopory is a distinguished scientist of the country. He had his education first in J&K University for his B.Sc. and M.Sc and then did his Doctorate at the University of Delhi in the field of Plant Molecular

Biology.

An eminent Plant Molecular Biologist of international repute, Prof. Sopory began his academic career in the year 1973 as a faculty at the School of Life Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. His teaching and research career spans over 37 years - as Visiting Scientist at Max-Planck-Institute, Koeln, Germany, University of Austin, USA, Plant Molecular Biology Lab, U.S. Department of Agriculture, USA, and University of Munich, Germany. Before assuming charge as Vice-Chancellor of JNU, he was the Group Leader at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology from 1997 to 2010.

Prof. Sopory has been awarded various National and International Awards for his pioneering contributions to Scientific Research and Teaching. Notable among them are: prestigious Bhatnagar Award of CSIR; Chakravorty Award; Birbal Sahni Medal of the Botanical Society; Birbal Sahni Birth Centenary Award of Indian Science Congress; Godnev Award Lecture of Belarus Academy of Sciences and Padma Shri, Government of India.

He is an elected Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (New Delhi); Indian Academy of Sciences (Bangalore); National Academy of Sciences (Allahabad); National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (New Delhi) and The World Academy of Sciences (Trieste, Italy). Recently he has also been awarded Corresponding Membership Award of American Society for Plant Biology, 2010, the first time to an Indian.

He has to his credit 200 Research publications in refereed and Impact factor Journals; 13 edited books and 50 chapters in books.

He has travelled widely participating in various National and International Seminars, Conferences and Workshops.

Achievements/Awards



◆ **Prof. Anvita Abbi**, Centre for Linguistics, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies has been awarded prestigious Leverhulme Visiting Professorship 2011. She will be associated with the Department of Linguistics, SOAS, University of London. As a Leverhulme Professor she will be giving public talks at Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Manchester, Essex, and Newcastle about the latest developments in research on the languages of the Andaman Islands, historical linguistics, population genetics, early Asian migrations and description and evolution of human language.

Prof. Anvita Abbi is honorary member of the Linguistic Society of America (a rare honour only bestowed on leading scholars limited to a select few), and has been invited researcher at institutes in Europe including the Max Planck Institute, Germany, and The Cairns Institute, Australia. She has immense experience in South Asian language typology, field linguistics, language documentation, and analysis of ethno-linguistic aspects of language use.



◆ **Prof. R. Madhubala**, Dean, School of Life Sciences has been awarded the J.C. Bose Fellowship by the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology.



◆ **Prof. Jayati Ghosh**, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences has been awarded the Decent Work Research Prize 2010 as co-recipient. The Prize awarded to her is in recognition of her major scholarly contributions to the analysis of socio-economic relationships and policy instruments for the advancement of decent work.



◆ **Dr. Arun Mohanty**, Centre for Russian, Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies has been conferred upon with the "Pushkin Gold Medal" by the President of Russian Federation for his excellent contribution to the Russian Studies.

Achievements/Awards



◆ **Dr. Rajiv Saxena**, Assistant Professor, Centre of Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Latin American Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies has been awarded the prestigious “Fulbright” (2010-11) to pursue his research as a “Senior Scholar” on CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) & TELL (Technology Enabled Language Learning) at the University of California (UCD) and Harvard University, USA. He is the sole recipient of “Fulbright” in this discipline in India. Dr. Rajiv Saxena has also been honoured as “Honorary Citizen of City of Davis” by the Mayor of the City of Davis, California State, USA.



◆ **Sh. Shakti Prasad Srichandan**, Research Scholar, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies was selected from SAARC countries and received DAAD scholarship to participate in the International Academy on Comparative Regional Integration, 11-28 January 2011, organized by ZEI, University of Bonn and German Federal Foreign Office.



◆ **डॉ. नामवर सिंह को आचार्य महावीरप्रसाद द्विवेदी युग-प्रेरक सम्मान**, आचार्य महावीरप्रसाद द्विवेदी की 72वीं पुण्यतिथि पर 21 सितम्बर को फीरोज गाँधी महाविद्यालय, रायबरेली के सभागार में हिन्दी के प्रख्यात आलोचक डॉ. नामवर सिंह को आचार्य महावीरप्रसाद द्विवेदी युग-प्रेरक सम्मान से सम्मानित किया गया। यह सम्मान उन्हें आचार्य महावीरप्रसाद द्विवेदी राष्ट्रीय स्मारक अभियान समिति की ओर से प्रदान किया गया।

Cosmic Ray Detector Facility in JNU



Jawaharlal University Campus in the Capital has been chosen by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as the site for installation of a 'Cosmic Ray Detector Device' (CRDD). The prestigious project is part of NASA's plans for monitoring the weather patterns of the space and movements of earth's

crust, following predictions made by ancient Mayans of Latin America that earth would face great calamities by 2012. Fourteen data collection instruments are to be placed in 14 different countries to lead real time measurements of the Sun's activities and also tectonic movements deep below the earth's crust by the year 2012, but so far these devices have been set up in only three countries which include Croatia, Bulgaria and the JNU in India.

CRDD has been installed in the remote sensing applications laboratory of the School of Environmental Sciences. This is a part of space of environment viewing and analysis network developed by a consortium of scientists across the world in collaboration with NASA. Cosmic ray division Armenia has developed the CRDD for India.

**Saumitra Mukherjee, Professor,
School of Environmental Sciences**

Campus Activities

जेएनयू एलुमिनाई मीट में मिले पूर्व व वर्तमान वीसी

जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय (जेएनयू) के पूर्व कुलपति प्रो. बी.बी. भट्टाचार्य की विदाई और नए कुलपति प्रो. सुधीर कुमार सोपोरी के सम्मान में एलुमिनाई मीट समारोह मनाया गया। उन्हें जेएनयू शिक्षक संघ के अध्यक्ष डॉ. डी.के. लोबियाल ने शॉल भेंट कर सम्मानित किया। समारोह में जेएनयू एलुमिनाई एसोसिएशन के चेयरमैन प्रो. आनंद कुमार और प्राध्यापक प्रो. एंज़्यूलिन ने बताया कि जेएनयू के पूर्व शिक्षकों और छात्रों को जोड़ने के लिए जल्द ही जेएनयू एलुमिनाई वेबसाइट की शुरुआत की जाएगी। पूर्व के शिक्षक व छात्रों के योगदान

को दर्शाने के लिए 2010 की स्मारिका (सोविनियर) भी प्रकाशित की जाएगी। एलुमिनाई एसोसिएशन और जय प्रकाश नारायण फाउंडेशन ने संयुक्त रूप से कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया। इसमें जापानी भाषा की प्राध्यापिका मंजूश्री चौहान, स्कूल ऑफ इंटरनेशनल स्टडीज के प्रो. एस. प्रभाकर, स्कूल ऑफ लैंग्वेज में चाइनिज भाषा की प्राध्यापिका प्रो. सबरी मित्रा और जीवन विज्ञान संस्थान की प्राध्यापिका प्रो. नीरा भल्ला सरीन मुख्य रूप से मौजूद रही।

“फ़ैज हमें सच बोलने का साहस देते हैं,” फ़ैज अहमद फ़ैज के जन्मदिन पर जेएनयू में गोष्ठी

“फ़ैज अहमद फ़ैज हमारे समय के सबसे बड़े शायर हैं। उन्होंने साहित्य के जरिये समय को पहचानने की कोशिश की। उसमें सच बोलने का साहस पैदा किया।” ये बातें चर्चित लेखक कुमार कृष्ण ने जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के परियार हॉल में फ़ैज अहमद फ़ैज के जन्मदिन पर आयोजित संगोष्ठी में अपनी कविताएँ पढ़ते हुए कही। उन्होंने तावा, साजिश, खत्म होती चीजें आदि कविताएँ पढ़ते हुए कहा कि “आज कविता से बहुत चीजें गायब होती जा रही हैं। शब्द अपने सन्दर्भ खोते जा रहे हैं। ऐसे समय में कविता पढ़ना, सुनना और लिखना नयी दुनिया को समझने जैसा है।” इसके पूर्व कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत करते हुए युवा लेखक देवेन्द्र चौबे ने कहा कि ‘पिछली सदी आंदोलनों एवं जन अधिकारों के संघर्ष की रही है। फ़ैज अहमद फ़ैज का साहित्य

आधुनिक समय की मुश्किलों को समझने में मदद करता है। साहस के साथ सच का बयान करता है।’

इस अवसर पर कवि गोबिंद प्रसाद ने भी अपनी अनेक कविताएँ सुनाई और युवा शायरों में जफर अंसारी जफर, मस्कूर मोइनी, अनिल कुमार, असहर अंसारी, गुलाम अख्तर, जिया उर रहमान फारुखे आजम आदि ने अपनी नज़्में सुनाई। कार्यक्रम का संचालन किया मस्कूर मोइनी ने और धन्यवाद ज्ञापन दिया परियार के छात्रावास के अध्यक्ष अविनाश कुमार ने।

अविनाश कुमार,
252, परियार, जेएनयू

Second Youth Film Festival

The Second Youth Film Festival was held on 1-2 February, 2011 at Jawaharlal Nehru University Campus. It was a great success and the response was overwhelming.



The two days festival was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. S.K. Sopory, along with the senior actor Ms. Sushma Seth and number of other celebrities and dignitaries in the Auditorium of School of Social Sciences.

The Festival was organized in Collaboration with JNU Faculty Club, Films Division, PSBT, Atom Awards Australia, Short Film News and Arab Film Festival Rotehdam & Sophodok.

The first day of the festival began with the screening of the film "Watch Clinic" by FTII Students and followed by another classic "Kal" by L.V. Prasad.

The International Film that brought the house down was "UWE+UWE". It was a sweet film on the migration issue in Germany. But the most interesting film was "Diploma" from Israel, about the struggle of a brother & sister in Gaza. The

night of the Hebron. The night of the Jewish settlement Masquerade. 15 year old Samer insists on taking his older sister Ayat to collect her diploma from the Palestinian University. Walking through the city roof tops and side narrow allies they must avoid the settlers, the army and the curious foreign news reporters settlement Masquerade.

Another amazing entry was from Iran, titled "Sun is Smog" - This is the story of a small boy who on hearing about the Prophet Muhammad caricature being drawn in Denmark decided to do something in reply to this. However, after much effort and deliberation came to the conclusion that Prophet Muhammad and Jesus Christ were both messengers of Allah, and preached goodness and unity.

Another mind blowing film on trans-gender issue was from Australia and it was called "Mind".

The other well appreciated films were "Clay" from Egypt, "Vida" from Israel "Back to the Roots" from Germany and "Whistling Under Water" from Iran by Hooshmand Varai.

There were 337 entries in the festival, out of which, 22 Short Films & Documentaries were screened in the Competitive & non-Competitive section. All the Films were produced & directed by young film makers from all over the world.

On 2 February, 2011 Documentary Films dominated the show. The first film "Nero Guest" was written by Ex JNU Student P. Sainath. The Documentary was about Agrarian crisis and the growing inequality. This was followed by the French Documentary "Puisque Nous Som".

Other attractions of the festival were "Double Date" from Australia "Journey to Nagaland", "Moksh", "All is Well", "Vaisnav

Campus Activities

Jan Toh", "Devadasi". These Short Films were made on different video formats and thought provoking issues like Peace, Human Rights, Civil Rights, Environment, Education, Senior Citizens problems, Health, Violence against Minorities & Backwards, are tackled in a sensitive manner. These films are not available on DVDs and online.

The awards were distributed by Shri Salman Khursheed, Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of India. The minister spoke and enriched the audience and participants, in his impeccable manner. He greatly appreciated the efforts & Mission of FACES organization.

The jury of the festival included veterans and stalwarts from the field of cinema and literature like Tinnu Anand, Virender Saxena, Dolly Thakore, Ramola Bachchan, Dr. Diwakar, Indira N, Usha Jain, Anirudh Behl, Sushma Seth, Bijon Das Gupta, Dr. Libiyal, Dr. Sunta Reddy, Dr. Khwaja Ekram, Dr. Preeti Das, Dr. Subi Chaturvedi, Dr. Rakesh Soni, Saleem Shah, Anup Ranjan Pandey, Preeti Kashyap, Basheer Ali Pathan.

The Awards given were :

- Best short film in foreign category "Diploma" from Israel by Yaelle Kayam

- Special Jury Award; "Sun in Smog" from Iran by Ahmad Ahamadpur
- Critic Choice; "Vida" from Israel by Anant Malz
- Viewers Choice Award ; "uwe +uwe" from Germany by Robert Kellner
- Consolation Award to "Double Date" from Australia by Smolen

Indian Category

- Best short film; "Watch Clinic" by Vikrant Pawar
- Special Jury Award; "Kal" by Manjunath
- Critic Choice; "Vaishnav Jan Toh" by Aushal Oza
- Viewers Choice; "Devadasi" by Olena Laxmi Shantokhina
- Consolation Award; "Diven" by Laxman

**Sunita Reddy, Assistance Professor,
Centre for Social Medicine
& Community Health, SSS**

XI Annual Yoga Competition 2010-2011

JNU Yoga Kendra organized the XI Annual Yoga competition on Sunday 27 February 2011, at the sports stadium. The competition was held in two categories.

1. Students (separate for Boy's & Girl's)
2. Non-Students (separate for mens & womens)

There were 44 participants in different categories with maximum number being in boys category. The competition Instructor Ajay Shastri gave demonstration of the compulsory asana which were to be performed by all the participants in the competition in the presence of the two external Judges. The final result was declared after completion of all the competitions.

The winners were :

Student Category

Boys	- Arvind Kumar, SCSS	First
	- Alok Kumar Satapathy, CES/SIS	Second
	- Syed Usma Ameen, CAAS, SLLCS	Third
Girls	- Alpana Tripathi, SLL&CS	First

- Jigyasa Meena, CHS/SSS Second
- Heabin Song, SLL&CS Third

Non -Students (Men)

Mr. Rajeev Kumar Raju (Ex. JNU students)

Dr. Rakesh Azad (CGS, Medical Dr.)

Non -Student (Women)

- Niva (Staff Dependent) First
- Pushpa (Staff Dependent) Second
- Shivani Dogra Third

Mrs. Damayanti V. Tambay, Dy. Director, PE appreciated the performance of the participants and informed that the Yoga Kendra is a very active club and has been conducting various programs including this competition for the past 12 years.

At the end of Yoga competition, Judges appreciated the performance of the competitors. A vote of thanks was given by Mr. Ajay Kumar Shastri, Yoga Instructor, JNU.

**Umesh Babu, Yoga Instructor
Sports Office**

Seminar on "Spectroscopic Investigation of Protein Aggregation"

Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility (AIRF) Organized a seminar on "**Sepctroscopic Investigation of Protein Aggregation**" in December, 2010 at AIRF. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Rajesh Mishra, Centre for Biotechnology, University of Allahabad. The work Presented by Dr. Mishra included the work carried out by him at Dortmund University of Technology, Germany and IFM-Chemistry, Linkoping University, Sweden. The seminar was attended by the JNU Faculty and user researchers from different Science Schools.

His talk covered the brief introduction on the basics of protein refolding and misfolding and the pathophysiological significance of protein aggregation. During in-Vitro protein refolding and cellular protein misfolding, the side reaction of protein folding encountered is termed as aggregation. This cellular protein misfolding leads to the formation of ordered protein aggregates called amyloid which are highly symmetric, unbranched, fibrillar structure and composed of cross beta sheets. Until now, more than 30 diseases have been identified which are known to be associated with the deposition of protein aggregates. Various spectroscopic techniques like fluorescence, circular dichroism (CD), Fourier transform-Infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy can be employed to monitor this conformational changes in proteins observed during



aggregation. The fibril morphology can be studied using atomic force microscopy (AFM).

Dr. Mishra in his lecture described the characterization of the conformational transition as well residue specific changes during the formation of ordered protein aggregates in lysozyme, Abeta and islet amyloid polypeptide (IAPP) by using the above mentioned spectroscopic methods. His work presented shed new light on the aggregation mechanism and existence of its potential for use in the drug discovery approaches.

**Tulika Prasad, Assistant Professor
Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility**

Workshop on "Water Resources: Impact on Agriculture, Health and Environment"

A two day international workshop "Water Resources: Impact on Agriculture, Health and Environment" was organized in a collaborative effort by Jawaharlal Nehru University (Dr. Ashwani Pareek, School of Life Sciences and Professor A. L. Ramanathan, School of Environmental Sciences) in conjunction with McDonnell Academy, Washington University in St Louis, USA (Professor Tuan-Hua David Ho and Professor Himadri Pakrasi) on 11-12 January 2011, at School of Life Sciences, JNU.

"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in a drop of water" this quote perfectly emphasizes the role played by water in each and every dimension of life. However, over the past few decades its availability has dramatically fallen to crisis levels. Over 40% of the world population is already under the grip of water shortage. Therefore, the primary focus of the workshop pertains to the shrinking water resources and its

global impact on all spheres of life including agriculture, health and environment. This workshop will provide us with a platform to discuss the research efforts being undertaken, across the globe, to overcome the adversities brought in by the limiting water resources, success achieved so far and measures required to keep this menacing problem at bay. Eminent personalities with expertise in their research area from reputed institutes like JNU, India; IIT, India; IARI, India; NBPGR, India; ICAR, India; CSSRI, India; Washington University, USA and University of Essex, UK will share this platform to give a holistic view of the present situation with respect to available water resources and research efforts being pursued in their respective area of interest.

**Ashwani Pareek, Associate Professor
School of Life Sciences**

Seminar/Conference

Sixth Sat Paul Memorial Lecture

The Sixth Sat Paul Mittal Memorial Lecture on Population, Development and Environment was organized by the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, jointly with the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD). The lecture was delivered on 21 January 2011 by the eminent demographer Tim Dyson, Professor of Population Studies and Head of the Department of International Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science. The lecture was chaired by Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and the theme of population-development linkage was introduced by Shri P.A. Sangma, former Speaker of the Lok Sabha. In the lecture entitled "On the world demographic transition and some of its effects". Professor Dyson first gave an overview of the sequence of processes in the demographic transition and pointed out that the basic sequence has happened in a huge variety of settings-cultural, economic, geographic, social, and political. The lecture noted how mortality decline and fertility decline are

central components of development and argued that demographic processes play a 'remote' causal role in urbanization. The debate on the implications of population growth for economic growth was critically reviewed during the course of the speech. In the concluding remarks, Professor Dyson presented the essence of his analysis of India's demography. He expects that India's demographic transition will stretch over approximately 150 years and the transition growth multiple will be moderate, slightly higher than that for China but lower than that for England.

The lecture was followed by a question-answer session. In his closing remarks, Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya highlighted the role of demographic factors in economic development. The lecture was attended by a large number of students and faculty, social scientists, planners, policy makers and population and development professionals from various institutions.

**P.M. Kulkarni, Professor
Centre for the Study Regional Development, SSS**

International Conference on "Global Infectious Diseases"

Every year, Seattle-India Joint Research Training Program organizes workshops in India with the help of Global Infectious Diseases Training (GID) grant to enhance research and training on intracellular pathogens and the diseases they cause, particularly Malaria, Leishmaniasis and Tuberculosis to doctoral and post doctoral scientists and researchers. The Program co-ordinators were GID co-Director, Prof. Rentala Madhubala from India and Dr. Marilyn Parson, co-Director (Seattle Biomed). Dr. Ken Stuart, Director and President of Seattle Biomed was the Director of this program. The 8th workshop was held from 30 January - 5 February, 2011 at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) New Delhi. This workshop was a joint venture between both Indian (JNU and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology) and US (Seattle Biomedical Research Institute and University of Washington) organizations, funded by Fogarty International Centre of the National Institute of Health (NIH). This training was first of its kind and was focused on advance fields including Next generation sequencing, bioinformatics, genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics and

structural and computation biology in infectious disease research. In addition to these advanced topics, major emphasis was also given to research proposal development, round table discussions, research ethics, laboratory management, and lectures on current research and technologies. This training gave a great opportunity for the young researchers and emerging scientists to update the current advancement in technologies.

The inaugural key note talk was made by Dr.V.M.Katoch, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, India. He spoke on the current problem of HIV, TB and Malaria with respect to the Indian scenario and emphasized on conducting translational research in order to accelerate the bench to bedside transit. As part of the program, a Nobel Lecture was organized. Dr. Ada E. Yonath, Nobel laureate 2009, gave a talk on "From Basic Research towards better antibiotics".

**R. Madhubala, Dean
School of Life Sciences**

Lecture on "Faiz Ahmad Faiz: The Man and His Art"

The Centre of Indian languages organized the first Faiz Ahmad Faiz Memorial Lecture on 14 February 2011 to commemorate the Birth Centenary Celebrations of the noted poet, known for his life-long commitment to the ideals of humanism and rationalism.

The lecture entitled "Faiz Ahmad Faiz: The Man and His Art" was delivered by the London based Urdu-Persian Scholar, Archaeologist and Historian, Dr. Mohammed Ziauddin Ahmad Shakeb. Dr. Shakeb, a retired faculty member of London University and a close friend of the late poet during the last four years of his life, had a number of anecdotes to share with

the audience. He also spoke in detail about the influences of Arabic Language, Persian Literature and Socio-Political ideology of Progressive Writers' Movement on the creative self of Faiz.

Professor K. Nachimuthu, Chairperson, CIL welcomed the guests; and Convenor, Prof. Moinuddin A. Jinabade, introduced the speaker while Professor Mohd. Shahid Husain proposed a vote of thanks.

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

Conference on "Human Right issues in Venezuela"

The Centre for Spanish Portuguese Italian and Latin American Studies, SLL&CS on 14 February 2011 organized a lecture on "Human Rights and its Achievements in the Venezuelan Revolution" delivered by a prominent scholar and an activist on human rights from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Prof. Alfredo J. Ruiz A. The lecture was attended by a large number of students, teachers and diplomats from the Spanish speaking world. Prof. Ruiz was accompanied by Her Excellency the Ambassador of Venezuela Mrs. Milena Santana Ramirez who introduced the human rights activist and professor to the audience. The lecture highlighted the institutional and legislative reforms which the government of President Hugo Chavez has carried out in the last ten years so that the masses at large can enjoy their basic human rights including the right to health, education, security and justice. The professor highlighted several programmes of sensitization of the Police Institutions about human rights in Venezuela which have

brought about a positive change in the society and has created a sense of safety and security among the masses. Of particular interest to the audience were the issues of participatory democracy and how the common masses are involved in the framing of policies at the grass root and national levels, the special missions established by President Chavez to take the health care and basic education services to the marginalized and poor people living in slums and remote areas of the country and the challenges ahead. The lecture was followed by a free and frank discussion on what lessons can be learned by India and how some of the best practices in the field of implementation of human rights can be replicated in our country.

**Subhas Yadav, Research Scholar
Centre for Spanish Portuguese Italian and Latin
American Studies, SLL&CS**

Lecture on "Point of Compass: Hafiz's Position in the History of Persian Poetry"

The Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, SLL&CS organized a special lecture on "Point of Compass: Hafiz's position in the History of Persian Poetry", on 14 February, 2011. The lecture was delivered by Professor Ahmed Karimi Hakkak, Director, Persian Studies, University of Maryland, U.S.A. Recently, he was a visiting scholar at the Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, SLL&CS, JNU. Dr. Ishtiaque Ahmed of CPCAS introduced Prof. Hakkak as a noted scholar of Persian language and literature and Iranian Culture and Civilization at the University of Washington for 19 years and an author of 19

books and over 100 scholarly articles on Iran and Persian literature. He was a regular contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, the Encyclopaedia Iranica and the Encyclopaedia of Translation Studies to name but a few. His works have been translated into French, Dutch, Spanish, Greek, Arabic, Japanese and Persian.

Prof. Hakkak having thanked Dr. Ahmed for speaking highly of him, began the special lecture. He determined the position of Hafiz, the 14th century Persian poet of Iran, in the Persian

Seminar/Conference

literary scenario with help of some of his lyrics. According to him, Hafiz is a figure in Persian literary history who has achieved a central position. The study of literary history of Persia reveals that before Hafiz there were many poets in Iran. But Hafiz has attained a central position by playing a vital role in lyric writing of Persian literature. It is not correct to assume that Hafiz was an imitator of the earlier poets of Persia. In fact he was a creative genius in the annals of Persian poetry. The poet does not use words in his lyrics in one sense only. His lyrical words have surface as well as multilayered meanings. He has used words like "Taale" (fortune). Etymologically the word is derived from the root-word of "tolo" which means rising or appearing. "Shafaque" meaning evening twilight, "Mehr" means love or the Sun in his lyrics. The poet projects in his lyrics that the beloved remained indifferent to his/her lover and disappeared from his/her sight like the Sun. For this reason the lover cries and laments over the separation or disappearance of the beloved from the romantic scene and thus his eyes turned red like the evening twilight. Hence the poet uses the word "Shafaque" to depict the plight of the lover who endured the indifference and disappearance of the beloved from the site.

Prof. Hakkak said that some lyrics of Hafiz seem to be insignificant and copied from the earlier generation of poets like Rudaki, Khayyam, Salman Savji and Rumi. A close study of them, on the contrary, reveals a good deal of poetic creativity on the part of Hafiz in the lyrics. In fact, Hafiz has ushered in a new approach to lyric writing in Persian poetry and in turn made the genre of Persian lyric very beautiful. He paints pictures in his lyrics. He explains the secrets of life by narrating a story of a young man who was unaware of the secrets of life and remained entangled in the web of the worldly affairs. He wanted to come out from it. So he came to the Saqi and prayed for his admission into the Tavern where he could enjoy liberty and freedom. The Saqi allowed him admission into the Tavern and told him the secrets of life. "Life is for enjoyment and every moment is a moment to experience". Thus he bid him to come to his Tavern and enjoy and experience life. He told him that in his Tavern wine of wisdom was distributed among the liberated souls. This wine did not make a man unconscious of his obligations but it gave a power of wisdom to him. This lyric of Hafiz has the tone of Khayyam's quatrains (Rubaiyyat) that life is beautiful and created for enjoyment and experience.

Prof. Hakkak analysed a lyric of the poet in which the poet speaks about the world and the heaven. The poet says that when he sees his evil deeds and remembers the Day of Judgment, he is worried about his retribution. Then an unseen voice is heard by him which says not to be disappointed and be hopeful and optimistic about the divine forgiveness. After that

the poet gives example of "Jesus" (Messiah) who was a symbol of spiritualism and savior of mankind. The poet also brings example of powerful kings like "Kai Kaos" and "Kai Khusraw" who had the power but both of them were mortals because they lacked in spiritualism. He noted that Jesus (Messiah) was immortal by dint of his spiritual power and was free from all evil deeds or entanglements of life.

The professor explained in the discourse that verb is a very important segment in a language as well as in the lyrics of Hafiz. The poet has used verbs which prescribe dos and don'ts for his readers. He bids his readers to abstain from evil deeds and be like Jesus who achieved immortality in life by his sheer good deeds. Another verb which he has used is "beshno" meaning listen. The poet tells people to listen to good advices of others - a way of success in life. Verbs which he has used in the lyrics are "Boro" which means to go. Hafiz says that one should go away from hypocritical world and try to develop the spiritual power for success in life.

Professor Hakkak recommended reading the poetry of Hafiz to the audience which in turn would develop inner bliss in them and also a flair for poetry. What would be a better reward one can get from literature other than reading poetry of Hafiz in isolation. Indeed one may at least enjoy poetic melody of Persian literature. He added that poetic merits of Rudaki, Firdowsi, Saadi and Rumi have been inherited and embedded in the lyrics of Hafiz. The two hours' scholarly lecture of Prof. Hakkak was very informative and fruitful for the students of CP&CAS in JNU.

The lecture was followed by a question and answer session in which a member of audience asked if Iranians consider Hafiz as a Sufi (mystic) poet? The professor replied to the question that Hafiz speaks like an "Arif" (Gnostic) but he is not a Gnostic. Rumi is a Gnostic and his poetry is also based on Gnosticism but Hafiz is not like him. Hafiz was not a Sufi (mystic) but his poetry smacks of Sufism. Dr. Syed Akhtar Husain of CPCAS asked that we have the biography of "Ghalib" in great details, over the years whether the Iranians have written a biography or life history of "Hafiz" in minute details? Prof. Hakkak answered that whatever Iranians know about Hafiz is through his poetry. Unfortunately over the years no serious efforts were made by the Iranians to write a full length biography of the poet.

The lecture was presided over Prof. Khailque Rasheed, Cultural Counselor at the Afghan Embassy, New Delhi and attended by most of the faculty members and the students of CPCAS. Prof. Khailque Rasheed thanked Prof. Hakkak for his erudite and scholarly discourse on Hafiz whose popularity reached beyond the frontiers of Iran during his life time.

Golam Moinuddin, Research Scholar Centre of Persian & Central Asian Studies, SLL&CS

National Seminar on "Minorities and the Margins: Colonial Encounter and Post-Colonial Discourses"

The National Seminar on the "Minorities and the Margins: Colonial Encounter and Post-Colonial Discourses" was held in the School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University on 17-18 February, 2011. The seminar was organized by the Programme for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion, JNU with the grant from Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) and contingency grant of the PSDE.

The objective of the event was to explore, from the perspective of historical anthropology, the varied indigenous and colonial experiences and strategies for dealing with the new challenges from the margins within the minorities. The issues such as state-minorities relations, regimes of colonial administration, leadership in the post colonial India, minorities and issues of underdevelopment, representation, justice etc.

The two day seminar was organized into six Technical Sessions, and one Round Table and screening of a documentary on Sufi saints of Punjab, and the inaugural session.

The seminar was begun with the welcome note delivered by Professor Geetha B. Nambissan, the Honorary Director of the Programme for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion. The seminar coordinator Dr. Y. Chinna Rao, introduced the theme and focus of the Seminar. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Mushirul Hasan, presently Director General of the National Archives of India and former Vice Chancellor of Jamia Milia Islamia, who dealt a great deal on the historical aspects of the issue of the minorities in general and Muslim minorities in particular. Prof. T.K. Oommen laid the intellectual ground on the issue of Minorities and the Margins that led the next two-days conference through his keynote address to the seminar. Prof. Nandu Ram, Dean of School of Social Sciences chairman, Standing Committee of the PSDE, who chaired the Inaugural Session, summed up both the speakers and also emphasized on the further research and studies on the minorities issue.

The first technical session was Chaired by Prof. Pralay Kanungo, (CPS/SSS/JNU) and three scholars made their presentations: Prof. Rowena Robinson (Dept. of Social Science and Humanities, IIT Mumbai), on "Indian Christians: Issues from a Perspective of Development"; Dr. Rudolf C. Heridia, SJ (Fellow, Indian Social Institute, New Delhi and Social Science Centre, St Xavier's College, Mumbai,) on "Justifying Reservation Quotas and Minority Rights: Recapturing the Constitutional Vision" and Dr. A. Bimol Akoijam (CSSS/SSS/

JNU) on "Governing the Margins: Nation-State and Its Minorities".

The second technical session was Chaired by Dr. Rudolf C. Heridia, SJ, (Social Science Centre, St Xavier's College, Mumbai) and three scholars made their presentations: Dr. James Massey (Director, CDS, New Delhi) on "The Question of Dalits Christians and State"; Dr. Raja Sekhar Basu (Dept. of History, Univ. of Kolkata) on "The Missionary Involvement with the Slave Castes in late nineteenth century Travancore"; and Mr. L. David Lal (Research Scholar, PSDE, JNU, New Delhi) on the "Faith of Minorities at Margins: An Inquiry into Dalit and Tribal Conversions in Post-Independent India".

The third technical session was Chaired by Prof. Geetha B. Nambissan, Honorary Director, PSDE (ZHCES/SSS/JNU) and four scholars made their presentations: Prof. Yoginder Sikand (IIAS, Shimla) on "Accounting for Muslim Backwardness: Going Beyond Sachar"; Dr. P H Mohammad (CSSEIP, MANUU, Hyderabad) on "Margins among Minorities - The Problems of Muslim Minorities in India"; Dr. Manisha Sethi (CSCRC, JMI, New Delhi) on "Hindus by Law? The case of Jain Minority claims" and Dr. Arshad Alam (CJNS, JMI, New Delhi) on "Empowering the Indian Muslims: Some Reflections".

The fourth technical session was Chaired by Prof. Vidhu Verma (CPS/SSS/JNU) and three scholars made their presentations: Dr. Tanweer Fazal (NMCPDR, JMI, New Delhi) on "Nationalism and its Discontents: Representations of Minority and Minority Rights in the Public Sphere"; Dr. Harish Wankhede (Dept. of Pol. Sc., RLA College (E), Univ. of Delhi) on "A Survey of Critics on Social Justice and the Muslim Question"; and Mr. Maidul Islam (D. Phil Scholar, Brasenose College, Oxford) on "Rethinking Muslim Question in Post-Colonial India".

The fifth technical session was Chaired by Prof. Prof. Praveen K. Jha (CESP/SSS/JNU) and four scholars made their presentations: Dr. Selvaraj Arulnathan, SJ (ISI, New Delhi) on "Dalit Christians and Human Rights Violations"; Dr. Ravindra Patil (DSW/JMI, New Delhi) on "Rangnath Mishra Commission Report and Dalit Christians in India"; Dr. Amir Ali (CPS/SSS/JNU, New Delhi) on "The Predicament of being a Minority: Minoritisation or Marginalisation"; and Mr. Mahtab Alam (Human Rights Activist and Journalist) on "Whither Muslims of Jharkhand?".

The sixth technical session was a round table discussion.

Seminar/Conference

Senior faculties and scholars who worked and published on the issue were put together to discuss the minorities issue at this session. This session was Chaired by Prof. Valerian Rodrigues (CPS/SSS/JNU) and six scholars made their presentations including: Prof. Rowena Robinson (IIT Mumbai); Prof. Yoginder Sikand (IIAS, Shimla); Prof. Rudolf C. Heradia ((Fellow, Indian Social Institute, New Delhi and Social Science Centre, St Xavier's College, Mumbai); Prof. Praveen K. Jha (JNU, New Delhi); Prof. Rizwan Quaiser (JMI, New Delhi); and Dr. Arshad Alam (JMI, New Delhi)

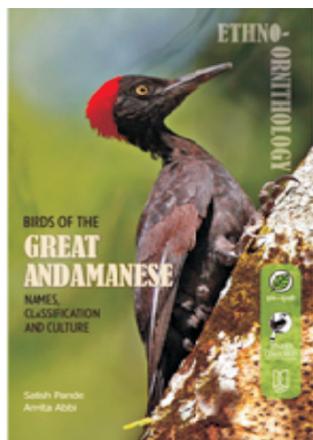
The last session was Chaired Prof. Yoginder Sikand (IIAS,

Shimla). In this session a documentary on Dalit sufis of Punjab was screened entitled *Kitte Mil Ve Mahi* directed by Ajay Bharadwaj, followed two discussants made their presentations on the documentary by Dr. Priyadarshini Vijaisri (Associate Fellow, CSDS, New Delhi) and Dr. Avinash Kumar (Dept. of Pol. Sc. RLA College (E), University of Delhi). The two –day national conference ended with a vote thanks by the Seminar Coordinator.

Y. Chinna Rao, Seminar Coordinator
Programme for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion, SSS

Our Publications

Book Release



This is detailed ethnobiological study of the Great Andamanese traditional knowledge of birds. The current study is an outcome of the first ever interdisciplinary research in Linguistics and Ornithology. The authors present all the avian Families, Genera and Species recognized by the Great Andamanese people and the current conservation status, threats and distribution

of avian species, endemic to the region. Local names of a variety of birds in the Great Andamanese language have been mapped with the scientific names for the first time in the ethnobiological history. The authors provide insightful discussion on the linguistic, morphological, behavioural, and ecological

principles as well as the cognitive processes that underlie bird names. The book brings back a highly rich but forgotten culture through the analysis of the Great Andamanese, a moribund language on the verge of extinction. Numerous colour photographs and drawings make the book a fine field guide.

About the Authors

Dr. Satish Pande

Associate Professor of Radiology & Imaging
Ornithologist, author, conservationist and Interventional Radiologist

Prof. Anvita Abbi

Professor of Linguistics, Jawaharlal University, New Delhi, India
Awarded, Leverhulme Professorship 2011, University of London, UK

Doing Gender Doing Geography: Emerging Research in India

For a long time, the discipline of geography had remained one where gender was invisible in the analysis of social space and place. Although recent contributions by feminist geographers have challenged this gender-blindness of conventional

epistemology, Indian geographers-conservative in their choice of focus and methodologies-have been reluctant to destabilise the established disciplinary order. Some younger scholars, however, have become increasingly interested in studying

Our Publications

gender through a geographical lens, and are using novel and innovative methods that combine quantitative and qualitative analyses, visual sources and in-depth case studies to do so.

This pioneering book brings together the contributions of Indian geographers to understanding gender in India. For geography, it opens a new vista and presents new ways of doing research in gender geography and in so doing enriches both the disciplines of geography and gender/women's studies in India at large. For the Indian social sciences, it reclaims the explanatory power of space and place that had been nearly lost in the wake of deconstruction-oriented postmodernist social theory.

The edited volume foregrounds the production of knowledge as contextualised process, but also hopes to initiate a dialogue with scholars who are located elsewhere and who are working with feminist methodologies.

About the Editors:

Saraswati Raju is Professor of Social Geography, Centre for the Study of Regional Development (CSRD), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt is Fellow at ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University.

Release of Hindi Translation of "A Spanish Anthology"

The Cervantes Institute in New Delhi, together with Centre of Spanish, Portuguese, Italian & Latin American Studies, Universitat de les Illes Balears, Palma, Spain and Institute Ramon Llull, Spain came together to launch a Hindi translation of an Anthology of Spanish poets from the Balearic islands of Spain. The book is entitled Poets of the Balearic Islands (Brief Anthology of XX Century) (Balear Dweepoon ke Kavi- Beesavin Sadi ka ek Sanchipt Sankalan), published by Northern Book Centre, New Delhi, has been edited by Prof. Ramon Bassa from the University of Islas Baleares, Palma, Spain and the Hindi translation has been done by Dr. Alka Jaspal and Prof. Anil K. Dhingra from the Centre of Spanish, Portuguese, Italian & Latin American Studies. This is the fourth book in the series of publications jointly published as a result of academic

collaboration between Jawaharlal Nehru University and the University of Islas Baleares, Spain. The book release was followed by recitation of selected poems from the book in front of an audience which included students, academicians, diplomats and general public. Professor Oscar Pujol, Director of Cervantes Institute introduced the editor and translators to the audience and highlighted important points of academic collaboration between India and Spain and how this is getting a special push with the efforts of Indian Hispanists and Spanish academic and cultural institutions.

**Subhas Yadav, Research Scholar,
Centre for Spanish Portuguese Italian and Latin
American Studies, SLL&CS**

List of Publications

School of Social Sciences

- 'Becoming Buddha' (Ed.) Penguin India, New Delhi, 2011 (Jan.) Dr. Renuka Singh, CSSS
- "The British Empire and the Natural world: Environmental Encounters in South Asia" Rohan D'Souza with Deepak Kumar & Vinita Damodaran, Oxford University Press, 2010 CSSP
- "Markets and Malthus: Population Gender, and Health in Neo-Liberal Times", Sage, New Delhi 2010, Mohan Rao, CSMCH and Sarah Sexton (eds)

- "Health and Sexuality among Youth in the Philippines-Some Issues and Concerns". VDM Verlag Dr. Muller Akbiengesellschaft & Co. Saarbrücken, Germany, 2010, Sanghmitra S. Acharya, CSMCH

School of Environmental Sciences

- "Sun-Earth-Cosmic connection" Academic Publishing Germany, Saumitra Mukherjee, 2011.

Our Scholars

List of scholars who have been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D). 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 Life Sciences

Mr. Manoj Kumar Jaiswal “Modulation of Rapid Eye Movement (REM) Sleep By Endobains and Hypothalamic Regulation of Some Acute Phase Response Parameters Induced By REM Sleep Deprivation in Rats”, Prof. B.N. Mallick; & Prof. C.K. Mukhopadhyaya.

Mr. Raman Manoharlal “Differential Regulation of Multidrug Resistance Gene(s) in the Clinical Isolates of Pathogenic Yeast *Candida Albicans*”, Prof. Rajendra Prasad

School of Environmental Sciences

Ms. Anindaya Roy Chowdhury “Regulation of Oxidant Induced Programmed Cell Death By Overexpression of Hyaluronan Binding Protein 1 (HABP1) in Fibroblast Cells”, Prof. Kasturi Datta; & Dr. Ilora Ghosh (Co-Supervisor)

Mr. Sandeep Gupta “A Comparative Study of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and Heavy Metals in Indoor and Outdoor Environments of Delhi”, Prof. V.K. Jain

School of International Studies

Centre for East Asian Studies

Mr. Netajee Abhinandan “China's Adaptation to Global Regimes in the Post-Cold War Period: A Study of its Participation in the UN, the WTO and the Arms Control Regime”, Dr. D. Varaprasad Sekhar

Mr. Mahendra Prakash “Coalition Governments and Political Reforms in Japan Since 1990”, Dr. H. S. Prabhakar

Centre for West Asian and African Studies

Mr. Sebastian N “Globalisation and Social Development; A Comparative Study of Egypt and India, 1991-2001”, Prof. P.C. Jain

Mr. Imkongmeren “Israeli-Palestinian Peacemaking During the AL-AQSA Intifada: The Role of the United States (2000-2004)”, Prof. Gulshan Dietl

Centre for Canadian, US and Latin American Studies

Mr. Venkataramani R.V “Political Role of Trade Unions in the US and India: A Comparative Study, 1947-1980”, Dr. K.P. Vijaya Lakshmi

Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies

Mr. Fakir Mohan Muduli “Evolution of Ukraine's Foreign Policy, 1994-2004”, Dr. Arun Mohanty

Mr. Vijay Kumar Bhatia “Problem of Democratic Transition and Human Rights in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, 1991-2004”, Dr. Phool Badan

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

Mr. Prasanta Sahoo “Indo-Bangladesh Land Border Management: Challenges Before India's National Security”, Dr. Sanjay K. Bhardwaj.

Ms. Nisha Taneja “Trade and Transport Facilitation in South Asia: A Case Study of India's Trade With Pakistan”, Prof. Indira Nath Mukherji

Mr. Deepender Kumar “Coping with Climate Change: A Comparative Study of Bangladesh and India”, Prof. I.N. Mukherjee

Centre for International Legal Studies

Mr. Rajesh Babu Ravindran “Remedies Under the World Trade Organization Legal System; A Study”, Prof. B.S. Chimni

School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies

Centre for English Studies

Mr. Rajesh Kumar “Dalit Writing and Aboriginal Writing: Convergences & Divergences”, Prof. S.K. Sareen.

Centre for Linguistics

Mr. David Ogoti Ongarora “Bantu Morphosyntax: A Study of Ekegusii”, Dr. Ayesha Kidwai

Centre for Persian & Central Asian Studies

Md. Shamim Alam “A Comparative Study of Khair-u' l Majalis and Ahsan-u' l-Aqwal”, Prof. Akhtar Mahdi.

Centre of Indian Languages

Mr. Niranjana Dev Sharma “Krishna Sobti Ka Katha Sahitya: Bhasha, Shilp Aur Samvedna”, Prof. Vir Bharat Talwar

School of Social Sciences

Centre for Economic Studies and Planning

Mr. Arindam Banerjee “Trends in the Growth of Capitalist Relations and Investment in Indian Agriculture (1970 to the present)”, Prof. Utsa Patnaik.

Mr. Uma Shankar Prasad “Impact of the New Economic Policies on the Fiscal Sector and its Implications for Poverty Reduction in Nepal”, Prof. Arun Kumar.

Centre for the Study of Regional Development

Ms. Nivedita Hansraj “Migration to Urban Punjab: The Case of Ludhiana Metropolis”, Prof. Sudesh Nangia

Mr. Bibhu Prasad Nayak “Institutional Structure, Collective Action and Natural Resource Management: A Case of Participatory Forest Management in Orissa”, Prof. R.K. Sharma & Kanchan Chopra

Centre for Historical Studies

Ms. Alka Francisca Michael “Environment and History: A Study of the Interface of Ecology and Culture in the Brahmaputra Valley During the Pre-Ahom Peiod”, Prof. H.P. Ray

Ms. Shivani Agarwal “The Archaeology of Mathura: Regional Complexities and Diversities (300 BC-AD 300)”, Prof. H.P. Ray

Centre for the Study of Social Systems

Ms. Saswati Bhattacharya “Murtikaras (Idol-Makers) of Bengal: A Sociological Study of Their Craft Occupational Mobility and Market”, Prof. Susan Visvanathan.

Mr. Om Prakash Mishra “Social Structure and Violence: A Case Study of Growth and Crime in Delhi”, Prof. Anand Kumar; & Prof. Yogendra Singh.

Mr. Haresh Narayan Pandey “Globalisation and Identity Formation: A Comparative Study of a Village and A Town in Muzaffarnagar District, Uttar Pradesh”, Prof. Anand Kumar.

Mr. Santosh Kumar Singh “Socio-Cultural Dimensions of Agribusiness Practices in Selected Villages of the Terai Region of Uttarakhand”, Prof. M. N. Panini.

Ms. Prabha Devi Kaini “Women and Public Policy: Evaluating Programmes of Micro-Credit and Political Quotas in Nepal”, Prof. Dipankar Gupta

Mr. Birendra Suna “Alternative Credit Institutions and Poverty Alleviation: A Study of Self-Help Groups in Nabarangapur District, Orissa”, Prof. M.N. Panini

Ms. Uma Uttam “Child Labour in the Brick Kiln Industries: A Study of Kanpur Nagar District (U.P)”, Prof. Anand Kumar

Ms. Manjeer Mukherjee “Engineering 'Family Values': Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Their Impact on Kinship Relations in West Bengal”, Prof. Dipankar Gupta

Mr. Manish Tiwari “Water Management Through People's Participation in Rajasthan: A Sociological Study”, Prof. Anand Kumar

Centre for Political Studies

Ms. Neeru Sharma “Identity Formation and Political Mobilization Among Dalits in Punjab: A Comparative Study of Ad-Dharmis and Mazhabhis in Jalandhar and Amritsar Districts”, Dr. Asha Sarangi.

Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health

Mr. Rose Nembiakkim “Reproductive and Sexual Behaviour of Female Adolescent in Churachandpur, Manipur”, Dr. Sanghmitra Acharya.

Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies

Mr. Nameirakpam Samungou Singh “Education, Culture and Health Practices: Socialisation and AIDS Awareness Among Students in Manipur”, Dr. S. Srinivasa Rao

Mr. Shiju Sam Varughese “Constructing A Scientific Public Sphere: A Study of Contemporary Public Debates on Science in the Malayalam Press”, Prof. Dhruv Raina

School of Arts & Aesthetics

Ms. Sung Min Kim “Relationship between Form and Formlessness in Mandalas: Interpreting the Aesthetic Power of Buddhist Mandalas on the basis of the Philosophy of Vak in Trika Saivism”, Dr. H.S. Shiva Prakash

Special Centre for Molecular Medicine

Mr. Nagendra Kumar Chaturvedi “Modulation of androgen receptor function by endocrine disruptors”, Dr. Rakesh K. Tyagi

School of Computer & Systems Sciences

Mr. Lutfi Mohammed Omer Khanbary “Design and Analysis of Resource Allocation Models in Mobile Computing”, Dr. D.P. Vidyarthi

School of Biotechnology

Mr. Sujeet Kumar “Effect of Polar Aprotic Solvents on the Structure and Dynamics of Proteins: A Case Study of Xylanase in DMSO-Water Mixtures”, Dr. Devapriya Choudhury; & Prof. K.J. Mukherjee (Co-Supervisor)

Centre for the Study of Law and Governance

Ms. Rajshree Chandra Ahuja “Intellectual Property Rights and the Politics of Knowledge: Questions of Knowledge, Property and Rights”, Prof. Niraja Gopal Jayal

Mr. Bikash Das “Jusvenile Justice, Child Rights and the State in India”, Prof. Amita Singh

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi

Mr. Nguyen Van Khiem “High Level Tissue Specific Expression of Transgenes for Rice Improvement (Oryza Sativa L)”, Dr. V. Siva Reddy

Mr. Prakash Chandra Mishra “Identification and Characterization of Box C/D Small Nucleolar RNA (snoRNA) in Malaria Parasites”, Dr. Amit Sharma

Mr. Kalyan Kumar Pasumarthy “Mechanism of Rolling Circle Replication in Geminivirus: Role of Replication Enhancer REn/AC3/C3”, Dr. Nirupam Roy Choudhury

Mr. Sheikh Mohd. Talha “Novel Recombinant Multi-epitope Proteins and Assay Concepts for Viral Infections”, Dr. Navin Khanna

National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi

Mr. Satish Khurana “Role of Hematopoietic Stem Cells in Generation and Regeneration of Liver”, Dr. Asok Mukhopadhyay

Ms. Harshita Bhatnagar “Auto-Antigenicity of Hemoglobin: Antigenic, Biological and Genetic Analysis”, Dr. Rahul Pal

Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad

Ms. Shweta Dwivedi “Structural and Functional Analysis of A Unique Editing Domain of Threonyl-tRNA Synthetase from An Archaea”, Dr. R. Sankaranarayanan

Mr. Jose Sebastian “Candidate Gene Approaches to Study Genes Affecting Meiotic Chromosome Organization in Arabidopsis Thaliana” Dr. Imran Siddiqi

Ms. N. Usha “Genetic and Molecular Characterization of A Novel Target of Homeotic Gene Function in Drosophila”, Dr. L. S. Shashidhara

Mr. Shoeb Ahmad “Structural Studies on Thermostable Variants of Bacillus Subtilis Lipase Evolved By in Vitro Methods”, Dr. N. Madhusudhana Rao

Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh

Mr. Sankalp Gupta “Studies on Regulatory Proteins Relevant to Phosphate Assimilation of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis”, Dr. Dibyendu Sarkar

Mr. Narinder Kumar Sharma “Biodegradation of Nitroaromatic Compounds: Some Biochemical and Physiological Studies”, Dr. R.K. Jain

Our Scholars

Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow

Mr. Mirza Saqib Baig “Identification and Characterization of Stage Specific Gene (s) in Amastigote Form of Leishmania Donovanii Through Microarray”, Dr. Neena Goyal

Ms. Deepti Verma “2-Pyranones-derived Arenes and Heteroarenes As Biodynamic Agents”, Dr. Atul Goel

Mr. Awadh Bihari Yadav “Transcriptional Analysis of Macrophage Response to Tuberculosis Infection on Treatment with Biodegradable Microparticles Containing Anti-TB Drugs”, Dr. Amit Mishra

National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi

Ms. Deepti Jain “Transcripts Profiling of a Drought Tolerant Chickpea (Carietinum) Cultivator Under Drought”, Dr. Debasis Chattopadhyay

Ms. Shalu Choudhary “Marker Development and Molecular Mapping in Chickpea (Cicer arietinum L)”, Dr. Sabhyata Bhatia

Mr. Santosh Kumar “Cloning and Characterizations of Gene Encoding Peroxidase from Catharanthus Roseus”, Prof. Alok Krishna Sinha

Ms. Archana Singh “Molecular Analysis of Early-Responsive Genes of Chickpea Involved in Biotic Strees”, Prof. Praveen K. Verma

Alumni Corner

An interview with Dr. Sumangala Damodaran, Associate Professor, School of Development Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi



Lakshmi Menon: How did your association with JNU begin?

Sumangala Damodaran: I joined JNU as a student in the MA programme at CESP in 1987. Before that, I had friends in JNU who I used to come to meet, especially at election time. Even back then I was intrigued by the unique atmosphere on campus and the zeal

with which the election campaigns and debates took place.

Lakshmi Menon: How different do you find the student-teacher relationship at JNU?

Sumangala Damodaran: It was unusual, especially for us at CESP. We had stalwarts like Krishna Bharadwaj and Prabhat Patnaik and many others who were very established theoreticians with a formidable reputation at a national and international level. The interaction with all of them which was non-hierarchical and democratic was characteristic of larger JNU culture for which both the student and the teaching community worked hard. It is something which JNU possesses uniquely; this freedom with which students can approach their teachers, even visit them in their houses if need be. There are many places where the relationship between student and teacher is a formal one based on drawing distinct lines, but at JNU somehow this has never been the case in any of the schools. There is a distinct blurring of boundaries, may be also because many of the research students here were also teaching elsewhere, so they experienced both how to teach and how to learn, which is a fascinating thing.

Lakshmi Menon: Do you think the time you spent here has affected you in any way? What have you taken back with you from the university?

Sumangala Damodaran: I owe most of the attitude that I have developed towards teaching, towards collective work and a democratic attitude from JNU. The ability to be open in academic attitudes while being rigorous and more than anything else, a democratic ethos which is highly special. Like I said, the student-teacher relationship was always a unique one. There is no sense of creating a hierarchy and forcing everyone to conform to that particular power structure. And if there is anything about JNU it is the spirit of democracy that exists at every level of interaction.

Lakshmi Menon: What is your most memorable experience from your time here?

Sumangala Damodaran: Difficult to say, there were many during the five years that I spent on the campus. The unique atmosphere made for many memories so picking out one is hard. The elections were something special though, when the whole campus would come alive with debates and campaigning. The political awareness is something special about JNU.

Lakshmi Menon: What is your message to the current student community?

Sumangala Damodaran: I think JNU is still an unusual place, in comparison to most other universities in the country, including the others in Delhi, and that should be preserved zealously. It is very easy for it to get corrupted if the members of the JNU community don't realise what makes it different from other institutions. The students should be aware of all the opportunities at their disposal and make maximum use for them. The campus is not only a great place to study but also learn valuable life lessons.

Photo Gallery



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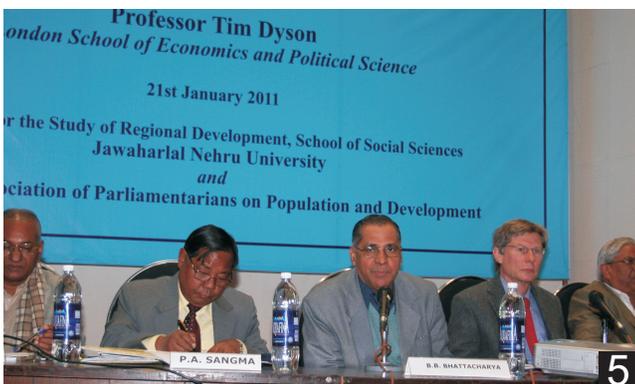
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1. Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor hoisting the National flag on the Republic Day at the Academic Complex, JNU.
2. A group photograph of students of Kendriya Vidyalaya during the Republic Day function along with the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and Rector.
3. Dr. Jayant Kumar Tripathi, School of Environmental Sciences receiving the "National Geoscience Award" from Hon'ble Vice President of India, M. Hamid Ansari at Vigyan Bhawan in the award ceremony organized by Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India on 4 February, 2011.
4. School of Life Sciences organized an International Workshop on "Water Resources: Impact on Agriculture, Health and Environment" on 11-12 January, 2011. Photo shows Prof. Tuan-Hua David Ho, Washington University, St. Louis, USA, along with Dr. Ashwini Pareek, School of Life Sciences.
5. Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences and Indian Association of Parliamentaries on Population and Development organized the Sixth Sat Paul Mittal Memorial Lecture on "World Demographic Transition and Some of its Effect" on 21 January, 2011, by Prof. Tim Dyson, London School of Economics and Political Science. Photo shows (from left) Prof. Nandu Ram, Dean, SSS, Prof. P.A. Sangma, Former Speaker (Lok Sabha), Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor, JNU and Prof. Tim Dyson.
6. School of Life Sciences organized an International Conference on "Global Infectious Diseases" from 31 January to 4 February, 2011. Photo shows Dr. Marilyn Parson (right) and Dr. Ada Yonhath (Nobel laureate), 2009 delivering the lecture.



7

7. JNU Faculty Club organized the Second Youth Film Festival on 1-2 February, 2011. Photo shows Prof. Sudhir K. Sopory, Vice-Chancellor addressing the audience.
8. Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies organized a special lecture on "Point of Compass: Hafiz's position in the History of Persian Poetry" on 14 February, 2011. Photo shows Prof. Ahmed Karimi Hakkak, Director, Persian Studies, University of Maryland, USA addressing the participants.
9. Programme for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion, School of Social Sciences organized a National Seminar on "Minorities and the Margins: Colonial Encounters and Post-Colonial Discourses" on 17-18 February, 2011. Photo shows Prof. Nandu Ram, Dean, SSS (second from left) addressing the participants.
10. Prof. Sudhir Kumar Sopory, new Vice-Chancellor (right) taking charge from the outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, on 28 January, 2011



8



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10

EDITORIAL BOARD:

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Designed by Ms. Sanghamitra Goswami, Mobile No.: 9868033788, Photos by : Sh. Chinmay Basu

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