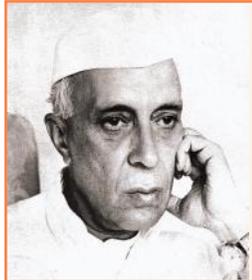




Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



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

*Jawaharlal Nehru*



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

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

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



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

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### An interview with Prof. Abdul Nafey, Dean of Students, JNU



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

**Prof. Nafey:** I first came to JNU in 1974 and I was part of one of the first few batches here. That was the time when JNU was situated in Old Campus with the student hostels as well as the academic buildings

established there. The number of students was very limited. I spent sometime in JNU but left soon as I was offered a permanent teaching post in Delhi University. I then returned to JNU for my Ph.D in 1980 after a gap of 5 to 6 years to SIS. It was the Centre for American and West European Studies where I enrolled for a direct Ph.D in Latin American Studies. When I came to JNU it was a small university and even rules, regulations and norms were far and few. Contacts were mostly direct between the students, teachers and the university administration and from that evolved the system of a collective working and studying environment that we experience even today in JNU. The campus was very different, with a very vibrant and politically charged atmosphere prevalent here. But it was a different kind of activism, as it strived to maintain a balance between a political consciousness and a need for academic excellence. The student community of the time gave birth to many stalwarts because of this very approach. Students as well as teachers of the time were very modest, consumerism was nil and the amount of interaction with other academic institutions at a personal level by students for attending lectures was, to my mind, more. Although the JNU of the time did not have mechanisms like GSCASH etc, JNU was evolving along those lines where there was a strong concept of gender equality, mutual cooperation, freedom of expression and political activism which went hand in hand with a hunger for knowledge and understanding of these very concepts that the students tried to acquire not only by practical means but also backing them by very good readings.

70s was also a time of great optimism. We really believed that change was possible and human effort could make this possible and why not make JNU the harbinger of this social change. JNU then and even now gives people a chance to grow by giving students the space and exposure that defines and results in formulating their personalities and making them who they are. That is why after decades of being here I feel that JNU

has given me so much and I would gladly like to give back in any way to the place that shaped me! And this feeling I think I share with each and everyone who has been a part of JNU at any time.

**Wafa:** What are the changes you have seen in JNU over the years?

**Prof. Nafey:** Many things have changed. At that time all of us used to travel by bus including the teachers. There were not more than 4-5 cars on campus. It was a very common way of living, sharing the same ethos and goals. Life was a little different and was easy paced. There are some values that have still remained with us and have become much stronger and thus no wonder that whenever we feel that there is any infringement of these values the entire JNU community which includes the teachers comes together to protect them. One area though where I feel JNU has changed immensely is in terms of the size. Perhaps this growing size in ways has also impacted the close knit environment of JNU where everyone knew every other person and interacted with each other frequently. Direct contacts and personal interactions are becoming a rarity where you could recognise most of the faces on campus. Another change I have felt is the space given to an individual in terms of physical space as in hostels. Earlier most of the hostels were single seaters. That also allowed students the time and personal space where they could find the right atmosphere to study. When you share a room you do need to make some kind of a compromise or adjustment which is not always bad but it does curtail the freedom of the individual. I think that the increase in the number of students has resulted in putting a strain on the infrastructure of the university. Although the number of hostels has increased the idea of personal space has been modified because of these changes.

**Wafa:** How has this transition been, from handling academics to juggling both the academic and the administrative?

**Prof. Nafey:** Honestly speaking, this has been very challenging. The Dean's work is not only a full-time job but consumes most of your energy. And the only reason I have been able to maintain a balance and provide myself encouragement has been by taking it as a true challenge where I need to prove my mettle! And I believe that once you have taken a responsibility then you should double up your energy and focus. I am trying my best to make the effort of not keeping any

## In conversation with.....

paperwork with me for the next day so that the process is speeded up of providing and catering to the needs of the students and the campus and services are delivered.

**Wafa:** How is JNU different from other institutions you have taught in or have studied in?

**Prof. Nafey:** A good student is a good student no matter where he is. But where JNU stands out is the opportunity it offers to the students as well as the teachers. It allows you to be yourself and experiment and grow academically. The environment is conducive for it.

**Wafa:** What are the immediate goals you have in mind as the Dean? And what areas do you want to focus on?

**Prof. Nafey:** One thing I have been striving for and in the next few months I think would be possible is to give every hostel a good sports infrastructure which is at par with the best universities. I feel that our sports facilities are used to the maximum in the hostels as that is where the students interact the most and spend most of their time. I have often seen boys playing table tennis or girls playing badminton in their hostels in the evenings or even late at night for leisure and also as a way to refresh themselves in between studying. And if the gyms, badminton courts and indoor sports facilities are the ones most in use then why not strengthen them further! We have compiled a list and have also invited tenders for the same and hopefully by May we will be able to deliver results. Another commitment I have is to make JNU campus barrier free. There are a number of students who are visually challenged and with special physical needs and their number is steadily increasing. We have to allow them free movement to all the buildings and on campus as much as possible. Traffic, the infrastructure etc should not hamper their movement. Most of these students are concentrated in the 3 hostels of Dakshinapuram and Sabarmati. I have some goals in mind and one is to make at least one wing or both if possible disabled friendly. I'm also planning to provide a lift facility in selected hostels for such students. Apart from it there is a larger plan to make the entire campus barrier free. We are planning to provide transport

facilities like a low floor bus and battery operated small vans touching all important buildings to these students. From next year fifty boys and girls belonging to OBC would be accommodated on priority basis. It has been generally felt that those students who belong to the economically weaker sections of the society are generally lower in the priority list of hostels. And it has also been observed that invariably most of them belong to the OBC category. So it becomes a further marginalisation by default. In addition at the University level it has been decided that from next year such students will be given hostels in 4:1 ratio. Also, from next year we should be able to accommodate 100 SC/ST girls on priority basis. Another concern is the foreign students. They have their own peculiar problems. Many of them when they land at the airport have no idea as to where to go. We plan to create a few dormitories for them as a transitory situation till they are allotted the hostels and intimate them before arrival so that they can avail these facilities. There is also a proposal to create a hostel for foreign students. Some foreign student have dietary problems so we would need to probably give them a little leeway in terms of giving them a pantry to cook etc. we have gotten things rolling already and the first milestone although not without a few hitches has been the opening of Shipra hostel. It was a huge challenge and we have successfully accomplished it last session. There is also a proposal for 2 new hostels, one for girls and another for boys. We also need a hostel for girls which is a single seater. Whether we ear-mark one hostel from the existing ones or build a new one. Because the number of PhD girls is rising steadily.

**Wafa:** What is the message you would like to give to the JNU student community?

**Prof Nafey:** Who am I to give a message to them? But the only thing I would like to say is that lets never forget the purpose for which we are here. We need to renew our commitment towards academic excellence, spirit of dialogue, to accommodate and live with differences, the commitment to the values of JNU and its spirit.

The Executive Council at its meeting held on 27.03.2012 on the recommendations of the Academic Council has resolved to rename the (i) Media Research Centre as "Centre for Media Studies", (ii) Centre for the Studies of the Informal Economy as "Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies"; and (iii) to change the status of the Programme for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion as "Centre for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion"

# Movement

## New Dean/Director/Chairpersons

- ◆ Prof. G. C. Pant as Dean, School of International Studies
- ◆ Prof. Shashi Prabha Kumar as Chairperson, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies
- ◆ Prof. Manoj Pant as Chairperson, Centre for International Trade and Development, School of International Studies
- ◆ Prof. Himadari B. Bohidar as Concurrent Faculty and Chairperson, Special Centre for Nano Sciences
- ◆ Dr. Bhaswati Das as Chairperson, Gender Sensitization Committee against Sexual Harassment
- ◆ Dr. Bhagat Oinam as Director, North East India Studies Programme, School of Social Sciences

## Administration

- ◆ Prof. Vaishna Narang as Chief Coordinator, Centre for Linguistics Empowerment and Capacity Building Programme
- ◆ Prof. G.J.V. Prasad as Coordinator, Centre for Linguistics Empowerment and Capacity Building Programme
- ◆ Shri Bibhuti Bhusan Pattanaik as Assistant Librarian, Central Library
- ◆ Shri Nageshwararao Kondamudi as Assistant Librarian, Central Library
- ◆ Shri Devendrappa T.M. as Professional Assistant, Central Library
- ◆ Shri Abhaya Kumar Sahu as Professional Assistant, Central Library
- ◆? Shri Umesh Babu as Technical Assistant, Sports Office
- ◆? Shri Ajay Kumar as Technical Assistant, Sports Office
- ◆? Shri Sanjit Chand Paswan as Technical Assistant, Central Library

- ◆ Shri. Sunil Kumar as Security Assistant, Security Branch
- ◆ Shri Deep Chand as Cook (Mess), Inter Hall Administration
- ◆ Shri Jai Prakash as Mess Helper, the Inter Hall Administration

## Retirements

- ◆ Prof. Ehsanul Haq, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences
- ◆ Prof. Partha S. Ghosh, Centre for South Central, Southeast Asian and Southwest Pacific Studies, School of International Studies
- ◆ Sh. A.K. Srivastava, Section Officer, Academic Branch-III
- ◆ Sh. Ramesh Chander Joshi, Section Officer, SC/ST Cell
- ◆ Smt. Rama Rani Kumar, Section Officer, Sabarmati Hostel
- ◆ Sh. Shishu Pal, Assistant, Engineering Department
- ◆ Smt. Chandrika Nair, Assistant, Academic Branch
- ◆ Sh. Balbir Singh, Technical Assistant, Dean's Office/SSS
- ◆ Sh. Mahender Singh, Mender Binder. Central Library
- ◆ Sh. Karam Chand, Office Attendant, Centre for English Studies, SLL&CS
- ◆ Sh. Rajbir Singh, Security Guard, Security Branch

## Voluntary Retirement

- ◆ Prof. S.B. Sasalatti, Centre of German Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies (Voluntary Retirement)
- ◆ Dr. R. Venkatesan as Veterinary Officer, Animal House, SLS
- ◆ Dr. Nawal Kishore Paswan, Centre for South, Central Southeast Asian and Southwest Pacific Studies, School of International Studies

## Members (Environmental Task Force)

1. Prof. A. Attri, SES – Convener
2. Prof. S. Mukherjee, SES – Member
3. Dr. A. Karkun, SLL&CS- Member
4. Dr. D.K. Lobiyal, SCSS – Member
5. Dr. Sachidanand Sinha, (CSRD) SSS – Member
6. Chairperson, CDC or his/her nominee – Member
7. In-charge, Engg. - Member

## Achievements/Awards



◆ **Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra**, Centre for Canadian, US and Latin American Studies, School of International Studies, has proceeded on deputation (foreign service terms) to join as Visiting Professor, ICCR's Tagore Chair, at the University of Yunnan, Kunming, China.



◆ **Prof. Akhtar Mahdi**, Centre for Persian and Central Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, has been appointed Member of the Society of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla for three years.



◆ **Punit Gaur**, Research Scholar, Central Asian Studies Division, CSCSEASWPS, School of International Studies, received the opportunity to teach a course for students majoring in "International Relations" at Eurasian National University.



◆ **Sh. R.C. Joshi**, Section Officer, SC/ST Cell was permitted to take part as Coach of Indian team in the Asian Power Lifting Championship 2012 held at Udaipur, Rajasthan during 1-7 May 2012 and also as a player in Master – II age group category.



The recent work on panchromatic, near-infrared and multi-state redox-active materials by Deepak Asthana and M. R. Ajayakumar, Ph.D. research scholars at the School of Physical Sciences has been selected as a cover page article in the journal of Chemical Communications {Chem. Commun., 2012, 48, 6475-6477}.

## Campus Activities

### JNU salutes the "Forest Man of India" on the occasion of Earth Day

Mr. JADAV PAYENG (जादव पायेन्ग) is a living example of those rare people whose selfless dedication and love for nature has safe-guarded our environment and indeed our lives, since time immemorial. JNU invited him to acknowledge his great contribution to nature conservation. Here are excerpts from the interview with Mr Payeng taken by Naba Hazarika, a Research Scholar, SES during the Earth Day celebration at SES, JNU.

#### Q. Which part of Jorhat district do you belong to?

I was born in Kokilamukh Borhup Urna in the middle of the mighty Brahmaputra in the Jorhat district, Assam. Due to bank erosion of river Brahmaputra, my parents shifted to the Mekahi Chapari of Majuli (World's biggest River Island). Mekahi was eroded by the river again, then my parents again shifted to Majuli Karichuk village and I stayed in Kurukatoli Bamun gaon at Anil Borthakur's home till 10<sup>th</sup> Standard.

#### Q. Where and how did you get involved in tree plantation?

After 10<sup>th</sup> standard, due to economic problems I travelled around India especially in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Mumbai for searching a job. But, I returned again to Jorhat and worked with "Social Forestry" of Golaghat till 1980. I worked as a labourer in the seed farm of the Department. After finishing the five year duration of "Social Forestry Project", I stayed on at the project site. In 1980, floods of Brahmaputra washed a variety of snakes ashore on the sandbar. I found the place full of dead reptiles after the water receded. That shocking scene turned my life.

The area was a vast stretch of totally sandy soil, devoid of any trees. Due to heat waves lots of snakes died. I could do nothing but only weep. I requested the Forest Department to help me in growing trees. But they replied in the negative. They advised me to start by planting bamboos. I began to stay in the sandbar

# Campus Activities

area all alone. I bought a few cows and buffalos with the little money I had earned from the Forestry department. I spread red ants in the area as it changes soil quality.

**Q. What kinds of plants and animals are found in your forest area now?**

After bamboo plantation, I started to plant small and big trees as well. Aajar (local name in Assamese), **Bombax ceiba**, **Terminalia arjuna**, **Gmelina arborea**, **Shorea robusta**, **Tectona grandis** etc are the trees found in my forest now. The animals in my forest are deer, cows, buffaloes, fox, types of lizards, snakes, vultures, storks, owls as well as pigs etc. Even the one horn Rhino and Royal Bengal Tiger from Kaziranga National Park migrate to my forest area during the proper season. Deer helped me a lot in plantation as their excreta fertilize the soil. A tigress has recently migrated from Kaziranga National Park to my forest and given birth to three cubs. Groups of elephants migrate to my forest from Arunachal Pradesh also. Around 150 elephants come to the forest and stay for at least a month. Migration of animals occurs due to availability of food and water in the months from November to February.

**Q. How long did you spend for plantation?**

About 30 years since 1980. I was a teenager then. Because of my great attraction to nature, I decided to spend my whole life with animals and plants inside forest.

**Q. What is the area of your forest cover?**

The entire sandbar is around 1200 hectares. Now the green forest extends up to 550 hectares. Only "Segun" covers around 60 hectares. Rest of the area is covered by other trees.

**Q. Why do the local people call your forest as "Molai Kathoni"?**

## Field Notes from Pokhran

As part of the M.Phil Research Methodology course, second semester students of the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament (CIPOD), SIS, were taken by Dr. Moushumi Basu, for a two day field trip to Khetolai village in Pokhran tehsil. The study trip aimed to introduce students to the basics of interviews, recording of oral histories, sample collection, analysis of data, etc. The trip included a visit to the Pokhran Firing Range, that was also the test site for the nuclear blasts. The trip aimed to introduce students to building up their own archives of material to supplement official documentation available on the blasts. In a sense, the trip



In Assamese, it means "Molai Forest" after my nick name "Molai".

**Q. Will you like to go back to Assam again for the purpose of forestation after seeing Delhi?**

Now I am around 50. After spending the whole life inside the forest I would no more like to come outside, and I have no other dreams- like to build mansions for my kids also. Now, I think it is my moral duty to conserve nature for which I have become a familiar face in the country. My life is a part of nature. I know I can never be as rich as nature.

My message to you "Payengji", ---We are honoured to have you today. We can't fulfil your requirements. We can only help you with some ideas toward nature conservation. Go and fulfil your ambition. We believe, God and Nature both will give you the inspiration and strength to carry ahead your noble mission.

I would like to convey my best regards to the SES students, councillors and pay my humble gratitude to the SES faculty and Dean. It is because of her effort that we could recognize such noble work and serve it as a rare instance before the world.

**Naba Hazarika, Research Scholar  
School of Environmental Sciences**

sought to bridge the divide between international and domestic, official and non-official sources that are available for scholars to use.

On coming back the students, divided into five groups, made presentations of their field trip before the Faculty and other students at a seminar in the school on the 6 of March. The first group provided a background of the Khetolai village. Adjoining the Army Firing Range in Pokhran Tehsil, stands the village of Khetolai. Interestingly, while it was the residents of Khetolai who gave their lands up in 1965 for the Army to make a firing Range, and on both instances they were the closest human

# Campus Activities

habitation that bore the effects of the nuclear blasts, Khetolai's name never appeared in the official narrative. Rather it was the tehsil headquarters at Pokhran, located about 25 kms away from Khetolai, that grabbed all the headlines.

The second group presented an interesting comparison and contrast between the various narratives -international, national and local, related to the nuclear blasts. Focusing on the oral histories collected from the aged residents of the village, they recounted the events as they unfolded in Khetolai in the aftermath of the blasts. The third group focused on the socio-economic profile of the village-health, education, literacy levels etc. Since the cattle are allowed to graze inside the firing range, it was of some concern when many of the residents complained that over the years, many of the animals suffered from severe deformities. Women residents also complained of high rates of miscarriage and cancer of the ovary.

The fourth group made a presentation of perception of risks among the population and the absence of risk management mechanisms in the village. Their analysis revealed that health education and awareness could reduce levels of fear and trauma. The fifth group made an interesting presentation on a gendered perspective of the debate on nuclear weapons.



Based on interviews, they provided an analysis of how perception of risks and dangers of living in close proximity to the Firing Range was different between women and men. These presentations were followed by comments from faculty members. It was suggested that the practice of taking students on field trips as part of the research methodology course needed to be institutionalized and made an essential part to enhance the quality of research.

**M.Phil (Second Sem.) Students  
Centre for International Politics,  
Organization & Disarmament, SIS**

## Physical fitness training program for the JNU Mountaineering Club

JNU Sports Office organized the physical fitness training program for the JNU mountaineering Club from 15-25 May 2012 at the sports complex, JNU. The one hour specific fitness training program was designed and implemented by Vikram Singh, Assistant Director, Physical Education for the summer mountaineering trek probables. The program included systematic and scientific exercises for the development of specific muscle group strength endurance and cardio-respiratory capacity required for trekking. Twenty four JNU

students attended the said program and they were simultaneously tested on different physical fitness parameters. Trekking related nutritional guidelines were prepared and provided to the JNU students. A quiet encouraging response was received as feedback from the students who attended the program.

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

## First International Fascination of Plants Day

18 May, 2012 was celebrated as the first international Fascination of Plants Day at the School of Life Sciences, JNU. Earlier this year, 18th May was internationally decided upon to be celebrated as the "Fascination of Plants Day-2012" under the umbrella of European Plant Science Organization. Over 583 institutions in 39 countries organized various events on this day with 4 countries giving this event their national patronage. In India, under the national coordination of Prof. Neera Bhalla Sarin, Dean, School of Life Sciences, JNU, several institutes and universities, besides JNU, organized functions of general interest to mark the event. In the School of Life Sciences, JNU

the target group was school children (classes 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>) mostly of the employees living on the campus and from nearby schools. Around 80 students aged 8-20 participated in the events. The programme started with an introduction to the FoPD-2012 by Dr. Mohd Aslam Yusuf, a UGC-Dr. D. S. Kothari Fellow at SLS, JNU and co-cordinator for the event. He set the tone for a fascinating day ahead for the enthusiastic kids by showing videos of different types of movements in plants that go unnoticed to untrained and unaided eyes. Prof Sarin, while welcoming the children and the chief-guest Prof. K. C. Bansal, Director, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, further

## Campus Activities

delved on the significance of organizing this plant day and the initiative taken up by her to open the laboratories and other research facilities for the school going kids on this day so that they can have a real feel of doing research in plant sciences. The lecture by Prof. Bansal, touched upon many facts and features of plants. At the outset he appreciated the fact of interacting with the children by saying that often it is a big challenge to convey the research efforts of the scientists to children, who are the future of the society, in a comprehensible manner. He discussed various aspects of different types of plants, their evolution, and their traditional and modern uses as food, medicines, and healthy and happy living. He also introduced the children to the judicious use of the promising transgenic plant technologies by citing examples of vitamin A enriched golden rice, edible vaccine carrying banana fruit and pest resistant Bt cotton. By the end of his lecture it was clear to all that Prof. Bansal succeeded against the challenge of connecting scientifically with the thoughts of the children. Dr. Manju Singh, research associate, closed the didactic session with a vote of thanks to all the office staff and students involved

in the planning and execution of this event at JNU, specially its vice chancellor Prof. Sudhir Kumar Sopory and the public relations officer Ms. Poonam Kudaisya who supported the event whole-heartedly.

The occasion also provided experiential learning to the children by taking them around the SLS and introducing them to the ways and means of doing research in plant tissue culture and genetic engineering. They were shown the laboratories, tissue culture rooms, transgenic facility, and the plant nursery. The day was rounded off by providing snacks to the children who ventured out on a scorching-hot summer vacation to quench their thirst for plant science research. As a token of remembrance they were handed potted plants of the medicinally important Aloe vera and Tulsi, to nurture with care and learn about their medicinal uses, for which Mr. Sunil Kumar of the horticulture department was thanked. The occasion was a grand success.

**Neera Bhalla Sarin, Professor,  
School of Life Sciences**

## Seminar/Conference

### **Historiographical Engagements in India: A Symposium in Honour of Professor R. S. Sharma**

The immediate decades after Independence may be seen as heralding the move beyond the colonialist and nationalist frames in historical studies on India. Over the 1950s, '60s and '70s, scholars engaged with a rigorous interrogation of the political economy and society across the premodern and modern periods. Some of the key issues that were tackled related to the evolution of social formations, the nature of transformation of societies, caste, class and region as frameworks of analysis, political institutions and structural changes, and interrogating colonial frameworks of 'knowing'.

Professor R. S. Sharma, one of the doyens of Indian history, engaged with all these issues. In his work on the Sudras in Ancient India (1958), he not merely looked at the question of caste and its evolution, but also situated the colonial context in which caste enumeration and the close linking of caste with religion occurred. Similarly, his Material Cultures and Social Formations in Ancient India (1983) was ground-breaking work on the significance of technology, and transformation of the economy. His study of political ideas and institutions in ancient India (1959) underscored the importance of state power and hegemony, its ideological underpinnings and the nature of transformation of institutional structures as revealed in early

Indian sources. While Professor Sharma's analysis of Indian Feudalism (1965), the nature of the peasantry and other social changes (1969), urban decay (1978) and concomitant ruralization of the economy have been challenged by scholars in specific regional contexts, the debate he and another doyen of Indian history D. D. Kosambi before him had raised continues to trigger varied responses.

It is to commemorate the scholarship of such a giant among scholars that we proposed this seminar on historiographical engagements. Professor Sharma not merely grappled with issues related to the distant past. His engagement with contemporary concerns was also very evident, be it in his vigorous opposition to communal politics or his rebuttal of racist interpretations of history. In this international conference, we sought to explore the work of scholars who shared similar spaces as Professor Sharma, raised the levels of scholarship along with him through a critical engagement with sources and contexts, and presented a view of Indian history that continues to be relevant today.

**R. Mahalakshmi, Assistant Professor,  
Centre for Historical Studies, SSS**

## Friday Seminar Series at Centre for the Study of Law and Governance

A series of lectures/ seminars were organised by the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance during Winter semester 2012. In these seminars, scholars from diverse disciplines presented their research on various socio-political challenges faced by society in contemporary times. The first lecture of series was by **Deepta Chopra**, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, UK who presented a paper on **State-Society Relations in Policy-making: The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act**. She traced the key events in the formulation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) with a view to reflect on the dynamics and interactions between the Indian 'state' and civil society that led to the passing of this Act. In doing so, emphasis was given to the inherently political and dynamic nature of these interactions. The speaker concluded that changes in state-society relations in India are underway both in terms of an unprecedented wave of citizen action and involvement in policy making, and through the adoption of a wide range of strategies for influencing the content as well as process of policy formulation.

The next seminar was by **Martin Killias**, University of Zurich, Switzerland on **International Comparisons on Crime and Criminal Justice with Innovative Data**. He argued that Surveys have considerably extended the possibilities for international comparisons on crime and criminal justice. Whereas comparisons based on police and court statistics face serious problems related to offence definitions and counting rules, surveys allow standardizing definitions, methods and rules of analysis. With innovative interview techniques (computer-assisted telephone interviews and now computer-assisted web interviews), field costs of surveys have decreased to a point where this method becomes affordable across the Globe. While giving the examples of USA and Western Europe he claimed that we can expect many more discoveries once countries beyond America and Europe participate in such projects.

In the month of February, the centre organized a special series of lectures by **Prof. Robert Grey**, Professor of Political Science, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, USA on the conceptions of Democracy. Prof Grey spoke on the **Competing Conceptions of Democracy and How to Measure It**. In this he explained the vast disagreement about the conception of democracy among the scholars. He presented the minimalist, procedural, social democratic and the utopian strands of democratic thought. Prof. Grey argued that the richer the definition, the fewer are the countries identifiable as democratic.

Robert Grey presented his views on the **Cause of Democratization: Structures and Processes**. Prof. Grey while defining the causes of democratization stated that scholars of democratization divide into multiple camps, the most important of which are the structuralists and the process schools. The structuralists emphasize on the importance of economic development, pre-existing democratic culture, or a

supportive class or the pre-existence of a rule-of-law state whereas the Process or agency approaches criticize structural approaches as deterministic and apolitical. They argue that political actors, not structures, create democracies and focus on how new democracies have been created. They emphasize particularly relations between dictatorial governments and their opponents, negotiations to introduce elections and the compromises they see as essential to the process.

He then presented his paper on **The Impact of External Factors on Democratization Processes**. In this presentation he argued that Structural and Process approaches to democratization treat countries in isolation, assuming that either internal structural features or internal political dynamics lead to transitions from dictatorial rule to democratic rule. However, such a perspective is unrealistic. Countries don't exist in isolation. Powerful international actors have worked to impede or promote democratization. In addition, such international dynamics as war and peace, or democratic diffusion/imitation also have an impact.

**Supriya Roy Chowdhury** from the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore presented a paper on **Old and New Slums in a Rich City**. In this presentation she argued that informality – unregulated wages and working conditions – defines the poverty of households found in both old slums and in new migrant settlements. This presentation draws on field research in Bangalore city on two sets of poor households -- new migrants found in temporary settlements in the city's peripheries, and slums located in old inner city neighbourhoods which house second/third generation dwellers -- to reflect on the rural-urban poverty debates.

The last seminar of the semester in this weekly series was delivered by **Jay Drydyk**, Professor of Philosophy, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada and Fellow of the Human Development and Capability Association and Past President of the International Development Ethics Association who presented his work on **Displacement by Development: Ethics, Rights, and Responsibilities**. He discussed whether ethics could play any role in proposing solutions to policy standoffs between developers and stakeholders. The case of displacement by development was discussed as an example of how ethics can point to a middle ground between 'managerialist' and 'movementist' perspectives. The central question of what is owed to the oustees is addressed by considering four moral rights to be realized in policy, in project management, and more widely in the public sphere.

These lectures benefitted the students and faculty members from various schools across the University and institutions beyond in exploring new dimensions of thoughts.

**Rukmani, Ph.D. Scholar**  
Centre for the Study of Law and Governance

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## Special lecture on “Diwan-e-Sufi Ahmad Ali Qandhari”

The Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, organized a special lecture on “**Diwan-e-Sufi Ahmad Ali Qandhari**”. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Abdur Rahmin Ghafari, General Secretary PEN Club of Afghanistan. The speaker is based in Sweden.

Mr. Ghafari said that Afghanistan was a land of pain and sufferings over the centuries. But it was also a land of Sufism. Herat, Balkh, Takhar and Kabul are the famous cities of Afghanistan as well as centres of Sufism. Ahmad Ali Qandhari, Ahmad Cheshtia, Khawja Abdullah Ansari and others are famous Sufis from Afghanistan. A sizeable portion of Persian literature is full of Sufism. Poets and writers like Rumi, Khawja Abdullah Ansari, and Jami have greatly contributed to Sufism in Persian literature.

Mr. Ghafari introduced Ahmad Ali Qandhari as a Sufi who was born in Afghanistan and lived in India in 19th century. The Sufi left a Persian **Diwan** (a complete poetical work) for posterity. Very few people in India, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Europe are familiar with the work. The speaker said that he was familiar with this **Diwan** ever since his childhood. Ahmad Ali Qandhari was his ancestor. He added that his forefather Mulla Saif Ali had two sons, Ghulam Ali and Ahmad Ali. He migrated from Dawar to Qandhar during the reign of Mohammad Khan. Ahmad Ali went to India and lived in Amritsar. Ahmad Ali became a great Sufi of Chishtia order in Amritsar and died there in 1893 A.D. and his tomb became a shrine for both the Hindus and Muslims of India to seek solace and blessings. Mr. Ghafari's father further said that the **Diwan** had been edited and transcribed in **Nastaliq** script by one Nizamuddin Husain in India hundred and fifty years earlier. On the death anniversary (Urs) of Ahmad Ali Qandhari, people from all walks of life come to see the **Diwan as darshan**. Poets and writers like Shahid Ismail Balkhi, Ustad Khalilullah Khalili, Shaikh Mirza Tahir, Ustad Maail Haravi, Prof. Mir Husain Jawadi, Talib Husain Qandhari and Dr. Mohammad Husain Behroz had recited from this **Diwan** in the presence of his father. Despite all this, the Sufi was little known in the annals of Dari literature of Afghanistan.

Thirteen years ago Ghafari's father had placed the **Diwan** under his care in Sweden and advised him to publish it, Ghafari went to Amritsar in search of the tomb of Ahmad Ali Qandhari with Prof. Aziz Abbas of Department of Persian of Amritsar University and the tomb was identified by Fariba Sarhadi, an Iranian archeologist based at Pune. He saw that the tomb had become a source of solace and blessings for both the Hindus and Muslims of India. He realized that he was a member of Indo-Afghan family. He felt that Ahmad Ali Qandhari was not only his forefather but he was a spiritual master and the forefather of all the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs of North India. He said that a Hindu family was the caretaker of this tomb for three genera-



tions. He met one Suresh Sharma who maintained the tomb with his brother Manoj Sharma. Their mother Mata ji Narbut Nath whom the speaker's father had met fifty years ago was also present there. She gave a copy of the **Diwan** to his father. Suresh's father and his uncle had been the custodians of the tomb previously. Suresh and his brother are continuing their family tradition of looking after the tomb with utmost sincerity and devotion. The speaker again felt that he was a member of a family whose one branch was in India and another is in Afghanistan. The vision of the Sufi was beyond political boundaries, dogmatic religion and narrow concept of race and language. His poems were full of love, humanity, sincerity and purity. He ended his discourse with hope that scholars of Persian studies of India, Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan would continue their effort to research about the Sufi poet Ahmad Ali Qandhari and his works.

The lecture was presided over by Prof. Sharif Husain Qasmi of Delhi University and attended by the faculty members and students of Center of Persian and Central Asian Studies. Prof. S.H.Qasmi said that it was an honour to preside over this function. He added that Indo-Afghan relation has developed over the centuries not by the invading kings from Central Asia but by the Sufis of Afghanistan. Many people and artists of Afghanistan over the ages had migrated to India and made her their home country. Khawja Qutbuddin Kaki Aushi, a famous Sufi of Cheshtia order, migrated from Aush which was a part of Khorasan. He said that India was a Sufi friendly country and all the Sufis and Saints loved to come to India. He said that Mahmud Ghaznavi vitiated the socio-political conditions of India but the Sufis ameliorated the sufferings of the people with the balm of their love and humanity.

Dr. Syed Akhtar Husain proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair and on behalf of the Centre thanked the speaker and the audience for making the function meaningful and academically productive.

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

## International Conference on “Gender Poverty and Human Development in Kazakhstan”



A two day international conference on “Gender Poverty and Human Development in Kazakhstan” was held under the auspices of the Central Asia Area Studies Programme, Centre for South, Central, Southeast Asia and Southwest Pacific Studies, School of International Studies. The conference aimed to highlight the ground realities in terms of Human Development and Gender Differentials in the various sectors of the economy. The conference aimed to bring to light the achievements and challenges envisaged in achieving the millennium development goals by 2015.

A two day international conference on “Gender Poverty and Human Development in Kazakhstan” was held under the auspices of the Central Asia Area Studies Programme, Centre for South, Central, Southeast Asia and Southwest Pacific Studies, School of International Studies. The conference aimed to highlight the ground realities in terms of Human Development and Gender Differentials in the various sectors of the economy. The conference aimed to bring to light the achievements and challenges envisaged in achieving the millennium development goals by 2015.

The conference was inaugurated by Prof S K Sopory, Vice Chancellor. Prof Saifuddin Soz, Member of the Parliament and PCC President was the ‘Guest of Honor’. The inaugural session was attended by Mr Dmitry Bogatskiy, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Prof Christopher Sam Raj, Dean School of International Studies, Prof Manmohini Kaul, Chairperson, Centre for South, Central, South East Asia & South West Pacific Studies, and several international delegates from Astana and Almaty (Kazakhstan), Uzbekistan and other national delegates from India.

The Dean, Prof Christopher Sam Raj, welcomed the guests and the dignitaries. Dr Mondira Dutta, Conference Coordinator and Director of Central Asia Area Studies Programme, introduced the theme and explained the purpose of the conference. She highlighted that although Kazakhstan ranks at 68th position out of 187 countries in terms of Human Development Index (HDI), 2011, there remain large areas of concern. Poverty levels are higher among women, who constitute 60% of the poor according to UNDP. They have more difficulty finding employment than do men; earn less; and have to absorb, through their own unpaid labor, cuts into social services such as child care.

Prof Saifuddin Soz discussed about the rich historical past and the warm relationship that existed between India and Kazakhstan. He stated that one should not consider the statistical figures of various reports as the only factor in understanding the ground realities. Prof Saifuddin Soz talked about the huge arenas of work that existed, including the famous silk route through which trade flourished once upon a time between India and Central Asia. Prof S K Sopory, Vice Chancellor, spoke about the vast areas of commonalities between India and Kazakhstan and said it would be worthwhile to explore possibilities of developing memorandums of understanding between institutions of higher learning and universities in Kazakhstan and India. Prof Manmohini Kaul, Chairperson of CSCSEA&SWPS gave the vote of thanks.

The technical sessions that followed covered a wide area including Recent Political Developments, the multifaceted partnership in Kazakhstan, Education, Health, Economy, Disability and other areas of human development. Prof Farkhod Tolipov, Director, Education and Research Institute, Uzbekistan chaired the first technical session on “Political Development and the multifaceted partnership in Kazakhstan”.

The first technical session discussed the recent political developments in Kazakhstan and its impact on the civil society. Dr Mukesh Mishra brought forward the new identity of Kazakhstan in the post soviet world. He highlighted how an independent Kazakhstan managed to conduct major political reforms that helped in the creation of a new political system which in turn contributed towards the development of new civil society institution, such as political parties and independent media. He further elaborated how the non-governmental sector has been the most dynamic having “great opportunities to draft breakthrough ideas and capable of offering invaluable assistance to the state in solving many social problems” in the words of President Nazarbayev. Dr Yelena I. Rudenko from the Institute of Oriental Studies, Almaty was unable to come and her paper on “Disabled People in Kazakhstan: Public Issues and Social Initiatives” was presented by Dr Mondira Dutta, the conference coordinator. Dr. Akbota Zholdasbekova from the L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana spoke on the “Women of Independent Kazakhstan: Involvement in Political, Economic and Social life”. She stated that the tendency of strengthening of the role of women in politics, even in electing them as Presidents and Prime Ministers gradually becomes symbolic in the current times. She spoke about how statistics testified that the states having less than 25-30 % women representation in the parliament and the government bodies, cope poorly with problems of protection of motherhood and the childhood, rights of the child and social protection. Dr Sanjay Pandey presented a paper on “Kazakhstan-India Relations: A Multifaceted Partnership”. He highlighted the geopolitical position of Kazakhstan at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, economic and political interests and also the existing resources and industrial potential that determined Kazakhstan's place in international affairs as a medium regional power and objectively give a multi-vector orientation to its foreign policy.

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The post lunch session, chaired by Prof Sangeeta Thapliyal, was on Kazakhstan's Economy and Trade. Dr G M Shah from Jamia Millia Islamia talked about the Spatial Analysis of the Gender Variations in the levels of Human Development in Kazakhstan. His paper highlighted how the gender variations remained sharp among the non-Slavic ethnic groups like the Kazakhs, Uyghurs, Kyrgyz, Uzbek and Turkmen residing in the central and southern provinces of the country. The Russians, Ukrainians and Belorussians mostly living in the northern provinces showed a comparatively lower gender gap among the levels of human development. Dr Mondira Dutta, in her paper on "Visibility of Women's Work in Kazakhstan", stated that almost 60% of the unemployed population were women belonging to the age group of 25-54. Most of the unemployed among the literates belong to the group who had obtained secondary education. It highlighted that in most of the regions of Kazakhstan, women despite having obtained some kind of training remain unemployed barring Atyrauskaya and Akmolinskaya. Women were mostly concentrated in the sectors of Education, Health and Social Work. They were more vulnerable in the labor economy as they tend to take up jobs that did not adhere to any safety measures. Dr Nawal K Paswan presented an analysis of "Income and Employment Effects of Cross Border Trade in Central Asia with Special Reference to Kazakhstan." He highlighted the landlocked nature of the Central Asian Countries as the major challenge in restricting the movement of cross border trade in Central Asia. The Central Asia region witnesses a low level of trade flows which are directly or indirectly associated with high trading transaction cost largely as a result of the landlocked geographical position and high administrative barriers.

The technical session on "Ethnic groups and Nation-building in Kazakhstan" was chaired by Dr Ambrish Dhaka. Dr. Svetlana Shakirova, Academy of International Business, Almaty spoke on "Gender Policy and Nation-building in Kazakhstan". She questions the established notions and myths in the area of gender and post-Soviet Central Asian nation state demonstrating its ideological non-innocence and links with Soviet (Russian) legacy, global colonialism and local postcolonial society syndromes. She highlights how women's equal participation in the society is jeopardized as a result of the traditional cultural norms and conservative values in order to justify women's inequality and disadvantages in labour market, political sphere and private life. Dr Mahesh Debata presented a paper on the "Socio-Economic Development of Uyghurs in Kazakhstan". Dr Debata stated that the Uyghurs of Kazakhstan are predominantly Sunni Muslims of the Hanafi School of jurisprudence, and more particularly adhere to Sufi traditions and customary law (adat).

Uyghurs constitute a very delicate issue for the political leadership of Kazakhstan due to the relation between Uyghurs and China and internal Kazakh policies towards the non-Kazakh nationalities.

The post lunch session was on "Gendering Politics and Ethnicity". This session was chaired by Prof Ajay Patnaik. Dr Roza Sarbayeva from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University spoke on the "Post-Soviet and Modern Gendering Politics in Kazakhstan". The paper highlighted that the post-soviet period shows how politics became a 'men's business', dominated by clan (zhuz) interests and tribal resource allocation. Tribalism supported the rapid masculinisation of politics and they reinstated patriarchal values, discouraged women from taking part in politics, stating that women are supposed to be the "guardians of home and hearth". Dr Sharad K Soni, spoke on the Repatriation of Oralman and their Socio-economic Integration in Kazakhstan. He spoke about the Oralman being those who usually came under the National Oralman Program from the neighboring countries of China, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Turkey and also from countries having significant Kazakh minorities, such as Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He highlighted that many of the ethnic Kazakhs who have so far migrated to Kazakhstan have not had an easy time, sometimes facing serious adaptation problems, including resentment against newcomers. A paper entitled "System of Higher Education in Kazakhstan: Challenges and Perspectives" by Dr Zhanna Kulakhmetova, L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana was presented by Dr Nawal K Paswan as she could not come for the conference. Her paper discussed the Bologna Declaration and becoming the 47th full member of the European Higher Education Area. It stated that in spite of the fact that the Bologna process has been initiated by European countries, its principles and objectives completely suit the interests of the newly joined countries.

The Valedictory session was chaired by Prof G N Jha. The Valedictory address was delivered by Prof Devendra Kaushik. Prof Kaushik talked about women during the soviet period and the high respect that they carried in the society. They were educated and technically qualified. Giving real life examples he emphasized on their role in the society and the significant contribution towards the economy, society and political empowerment process. Dr Sharad K Soni gave the vote of thanks.

**Mondira Dutta**  
**Conference Coordinator and Director,**  
**Central Asian Area Studies Programme, SIS**

### National Symposium on "Microbes in Health and Agriculture"

A National symposium on Microbes in Health and Agriculture was conducted in School of Life Sciences. Over 250 delegates from different regions of India have attended the symposium, amongst 31 were the invited speakers and 12 were the selected young scientists. Awards were given to two young women

scientists. A total of 102 posters were presented by the delegates and 8 best posters were selected for awards. This conference was coordinated by Dr. Atul Kumar Johri and was held under UGC resource net working program. During this two days symposium different aspects on use and role of different

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microbes (fungus, bacteria, plant pathogens, and human pathogens) were discussed so that they can be used in agriculture for crop yield improvement and for the better health.

The book of abstracts was released during the inaugural function by Prof. Neera Sarin, (Dean, School of Life Sciences),

Prof. T.P. Singh, Chief Guest, (Professor Emeritus, AIIMS) and Dr. Atul Johri, Coordinator symposium.

**Atul Kumar Johri, Symposium coordinator  
School of Life Sciences**

### Lecture on: “Negotiating Conflicts in Deeply Divided Societies”

School of International Studies organized second SIS Guest Scholar Lecture. On this occasion Radu Carciumaru, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg was invited to speak on “Negotiating Conflicts in Deeply Divided Societies the abstract of the lecture is under.

Abstract: This work seeks to focus on the merits of complex and hybrid consociational power sharing systems. One of its theoretical aims is to combine the usefulness and complementariness of negotiation theory and consociational theory. The ability to negotiate non-negotiable and irrational in mitigating conflicts thus emerged. This comparative research analyzes how traditional and modern approaches lead to innovative solutions, e.g. public policy, whereas the innovative solutions thus emerging lead to legitimacy, stability, robustness and efficacy of a power sharing system. The selected case studies of the research project are India, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Moldova. Experiencing different intensities of violent conflicts they were managed by differing patterns of power sharing arrangements. In case of the European states, various degrees of involvement of international actors have taken place. I analyze the (re)action and support of domestic actors in terms of efficacy and legitimacy of and involvement with central state institutions, perceived as de facto or de jure protectorates of the external powers. Besides the following

aspects, such as: 1) little systematic comparative work on consociational power sharing systems has been undertaken; 2) understudy of India's case as consociational power sharing system; 3.) unsatisfactory exploration of the relatively new practice of complex power sharing, implying also the effects of international and external involvement in the making, ratification and maintenance of consociational power sharing arrangements; the effort will be to contribute to the existing research on conflict resolution, by explaining how, when and why power sharing arrangements come into being, succeed or fail their purpose. It will argue and demonstrate that success, perceived as stability, resilience, efficacy and legitimacy of institutional arrangements as well as institutionalization of the state per se is achieved by a process of hybridization of indigenous traditions/legacies with imported/ imposed policies/concepts implemented into the design of power sharing systems. Inductively, the knowledge gained from the European cases of complex power sharing could serve as a viable tool and shed a new light on mitigation and management of such seemingly intractable and protracted conflicts as Kashmir and Sri Lanka.

**Bharat H. Desai,  
Professor of International Law, Jawaharlal Nehru  
Chair in International Environmental Law, SIS**

### National Seminar on “Managing Electronic Theses and Dissertations”

The JNU Central Library in association with INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad organized a two-day National Seminar on “Managing Electronic Theses and Dissertations” at the JNU Convention Centre. The Seminar started with an inaugural session, where Dr. Ramesh C Gaur, University Librarian welcomed the speakers and delegates and gave a formal introduction to the seminar. He informed the audience that JNU Central Library is establishing an institutional ETD repository for digital archiving theses and dissertations submitted to JNU. He also mentioned that recently JNU has signed a MoU with INFLIBNET Centre for collaboration in respect of creation of ETDs and participation in the Shodhganga initiative. Professor Sudha Pai, Rector of JNU, delivered the inaugural address, where she stressed on the importance of availability and accessibility of theses and dissertations in electronic format. JNU scholars always strive for consulting old theses and dissertations. But some theses remain inaccessible in physical form. If the same theses become

accessible from a digital archive, current and future research students will be much benefited. In this session, the keynote address titled “Managing Electronic Theses and Dissertations” was delivered by Dr. Vinod Chachra, who is Member Board of Directors, Networked Digital Library for Theses and Dissertations



(NDLTD), USA and the President of VTLS Inc. In his lecture, he introduced a global movement towards achieving open access to theses and dissertations, where NDLTD assumes leadership role in initiating open access ETD projects worldwide. In his speech Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre intro-

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duced its ETD initiative namely “Shodhganga” in collaboration with the University Grants Commission. Shodhganga is a national level open access ETD repository, where theses and dissertations from UGC-recognized universities are systematically archived and made globally accessible.

In this Seminar, six technical sessions were organized, namely, Session I: ETDs Policy Setting and Enforcement; Session II: Shodhganga: An Opportunity for University Libraries in India; Session III: Digitization and Digital Archiving of Theses and Dissertations; Session IV: ETD Systems – Selection and Use; Session V: ETD Case Studies; and, Session VI: Copyright and Other Related Issues Concerning ETDs. In these technical sessions different technological and societal challenges and opportunities, particularly which are encountered by practitioners community, were discussed by eminent speakers. This seminar also held a panel discussion on “Preservation and Access of Theses and Dissertations: Issues and Challenges”, where panelists introduced long-term digital preservation

strategies and initiatives at the national and institutional level.

In the valedictory session of the seminar, Dr. R K Chadha, Joint Secretary, Parliament of India delivered the valedictory address. Dr. Jagdish Arora chaired this session. This session concluded with summary report of the seminar by Dr. Manorma Tripathi, Deputy Librarian and vote of thanks by Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur.

This seminar provided a platform and a unique opportunity to network, share experiences and discuss best practices, enabling researchers and practitioners in the area of electronic theses and dissertations. This seminar also helped in sensitizing and awareness raising of JNU stakeholders for early implementation of ETD Repository in the university.

**Anup Kumar Das**  
**Documentation Officer**  
**Centre for Studies in Science Policy, SSS**

### International Conference on “Colonialism: Experiences of India and Korea”

An international conference on 'Colonialism in Korea and India: Issues and Perspectives' was held on 23-24 March 2012, at the Convention Centre, JNU. The conference was organised by Dr. Vyjayanti Raghavan, CJKNEAS, SLL&CS and Dr. R. Mahalakshmi, CHS, SSS. This was part of the project being done by the two scholars on the same theme, wherein the former is the Project Director and the latter the Co-investigator on the Indian history side. While the project is funded by the Academy of Korean Studies the conference was supported by ICHR and JNU.

The themes covered were historiography, the colonial state, colonialism and social transformation, colonial policies, and challenges to colonialism in the two countries. Eminent scholars of Korean History and Indian History presented papers and discussed at length aspects of the socio-political, economic, cultural, and military, legal and administrative structures during the colonial period. The scholars of Korean history were Prof. Son Chun-Il from Yonbian University, PRC, Prof. Vipin Chandra, Wheaton College, USA, Dr. Pankaj Mohan, Academy of Korean Studies (AKS), Korea, and Dr. Vyjayanti Raghavan, J.N.U. However, Dr. Vladimir Tikhonov from Oslo University and Prof. Gi-Wook Shin from Stanford were unable to attend at the last minute so their papers were read and discussed. On the Indian

history side the scholars were Prof. Sucheta Mahajan, JNU; Dr. Visalakshi Menon, DU, Dr. Alok Bajpai, Dr. R. Venkataramanujam, MCC, Chennai, Dr. Rakesh Batabyal, Academic Staff College, JNU, Prof. Shri Krishan, MDU, Rohtak, Prof. Aditya Mukherjee, Prof. Mridula Mukherjee and Dr. R. Mahalakshmi from JNU.

This is the first time that a comparative study of this kind has been undertaken. The conference has been a major step towards increasing awareness and providing a forum for the scholars of Indian history and Korean history to exchange views on aspects of colonialism in the two countries. The discussions generated a lot of interest among the students and the faculty of Korean language and history as well as Indian history. The conference promises to initiate and give momentum to joint research in this completely new field. The papers presented will form part of an edited volume that will be brought out at the end of the project period. The publication could become a good resource material for the scholars of this field of study.

**Vyjayanti Raghavan, Associate Professor**  
**Centre for Japanese, Korean & North East Asian**  
**Studies, SLL&CS**

### Lecture on “Creating Socio-economic Value through Open Public Data”

The JNU Central Library organized the fourth lecture in the JNU Library Lecture Series and Outreach Programme on 17 April 2012 at the Central Library Committee Room. The Lecture titled “Creating Socio-economic Value through Open Public Data” was delivered by Ms Waltraut Ritter, Research Director of the

Knowledge Dialogues, Hong Kong, and a Visiting Professor in the International School of Information Management, Mysore. Professor Krishnendu Ghosh Dastidar of CESP, School of Social Sciences chaired this event.

In this lecture Ms Ritter first introduced the concept of public sector information (PSI). Public sector organizations produce, collect and share vast amounts of information, such as meteorological, traffic and socio-economic data, health and statistical data, cultural information and others. PSI is the “raw material” for new value added services, but it is often difficult for third parties to re-use it. Many countries have updated their public information laws to adapt to the new opportunities through the digitization of information.

Then the speaker introduced the concept of open public data. Open public data (OPD) help in expanding access to and promote the re-use of data worldwide. OPD can enable new businesses to deliver innovative services, improve public sector transparency and efficiency and ensure decisions by governments are based on greater evidence and insights. OPD can expand the horizon of openness, and transforms public and private sectors alike. In this context, Ms. Ritter mentioned different worldwide initiatives of OPD. The European Commission published its open data strategy in December 2011. The Government of United



States launched the Data.Gov portal in May 2009 as an integrated platform of OPD. An OPD portal for India, named Open Government Platform (OGPL), was launched in 2011, in collaboration with Data.Gov as Indo-US joint initiative. OGPL aims to promote transparency and greater citizen engagement by making more government data, documents, tools and processes publicly available. At the end of the lecture, the speaker predicted that OPD will encourage new forms of public engagement and will lead to democratization of government data. The Lecture concluded with the Chair's remarks and an exciting interaction with the audience.

Earlier JNU Central Library organized three lectures in 2012 as part of the Library Lecture Series and Outreach Programme:

1st Lecture “Documentation of Oral History: Experiences at South Asian Oral History project at the University of Washington Libraries” delivered by Dr. Deepa Banerjee, South Asian Studies Librarian, University of Washington Libraries, USA on 10 January 2012.

2nd Lecture “Embedded Librarianship New ways of building relationship with Faculty” delivered by Dr. Triveni Kuchi, Director of South Asian Studies Program, Sociology & South Asian Librarian, State University of New Jersey, USA on 3rd February 2012.

3rd Lecture “E-books: Choices and Challenges” delivered by Ms. Linda K Parker, Information Resource Officer, American Centers in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka, on 20 March 2012.

**Anup Kumar Das, Documentation Officer  
Centre for Studies in Science Policy, SSS**

## जापान में हिन्दी अध्ययन काफी आगे है – प्रो. मिजोकामी

पिछले दिनों भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र द्वारा आयोजित एक परिचर्चा में जापान के ओसाका विश्वविद्यालय के प्रोफेसर एमरिटस तोमियो मिजोकामी ने सात साल बाद जेएनयू आने पर खुशी जताते हुए कहा कि जेएनयू और ओसाका विश्वविद्यालय के बीच एम.ओ.यू. नहीं होने के बावजूद भी दोनों विश्वविद्यालय के अकादमिक संबंध बहुत प्रगाढ़ हैं। जापान में आज के हिन्दी अध्ययन की प्रशंसा करते हुए उन्होंने बताया कि उनके विद्यार्थी काल में वहां हिन्दी अध्ययन उतना आसान नहीं था। न तो ठीक व्यवस्था थी, न अच्छे शब्द कोश थे और न ही अच्छे शिक्षक थे, यहां तक कि किताबें भी उपलब्ध नहीं होती थीं, फिर भी यह पढ़ने की ललक और दृढ़ इच्छा ही थी कि मैंने हिन्दी सीखी और इस कार्य के लिए मैंने प्रवासी भारतीयों की मदद ली।

प्रो. मिजोकामी ने कहा कि भारत में जापानी अध्ययन की तुलना में जापान में हिन्दी अध्ययन काफी आगे है। हमारे वहां पर प्रेमचन्द, भीष्म साहनी, कृष्ण बलदेव वैद, उपेन्द्रनाथ अशक आदि लेखकों की रचनाएं जापानी भाषा में अनूदित हो चुकी हैं, लेकिन हिन्दी में कम ही जापानी रचनाओं का अनुवाद हुआ है।

परिचर्चा की शुरुआत में प्रो. तोमियो मिजोकामी का परिचय देते हुए

भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र के डॉ. देवेन्द्र चौबे ने कहा कि प्रो. मिजोकामी का जेएनयू से बहुत पुराना रिश्ता है और वे अक्सर जेएनयू आते रहे हैं। यह रिश्ता अकादमिक और सर्जनात्मक दोनों स्तर के हैं। प्रो. मिजोकामी हिन्दी, पंजाबी सहित कई भारतीय भाषाओं के विद्वान हैं। उन्होंने जापानी विद्यार्थियों के सहयोग से हिन्दी में नाटक भी मंचित किये हैं, उनके नाटकों का मंचन जेएनयू में भी हो चुका है। प्रो. मिजोकामी का औपचारिक स्वागत करते हुए भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र के अध्यक्ष प्रो. कृष्णास्वामी नाच्चिमुत्तू ने कहा कि आज के जमाने में हमें भारतीय भाषाओं और जापानी के बीच के अध्ययन को बढ़ावा देना चाहिये और इस काम में सभी को आगे आना चाहिये क्योंकि हमारा केन्द्र ऐसे कामों में हमेशा आगे रहा है। भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र के पूर्व-अध्यक्ष प्रो. चमनलाल ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करते हुए कहा कि किसी भी भाषा के उच्चारण में वक्ता की अपनी मातृभाषा का प्रभाव स्वाभाविक ही रहता है, इसलिए अंग्रेजों की तरह अंग्रेजी बोलने वाले भी कुंठाग्रस्त होते हैं। प्रो. चमन लाल ने बहुभाषिकता को भारत देश की महान विशेषता बताते हुए ज्यादा से ज्यादा भाषाएं सीखने की सलाह दी।

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# Seminar/Conference

## जेएनयू में आप्रवासी समाज और साहित्य पर संगोष्ठी संपन्न

नई दिल्ली 12 अप्रैल। जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र के तत्वावधान में भाषा संस्थान के समिति कक्ष में 'आप्रवासी साहित्य और समाज' विषयक संगोष्ठी संपन्न हुई जिसमें प्रो. कृष्णास्वामी नाच्चिमुत्तू, प्रो. चमनलाल, प्रो. रामबक्ष, डॉ. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद मिश्रा, डॉ. रश्मि चौधरी, डॉ. जयप्रकाश कर्दम और संगोष्ठी के विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में मॉरीशस के प्रसिद्ध कथाकार रामदेव धुरंधर उपस्थित थे। कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत प्रो. चमनलाल के वक्तव्य से और रामदेव धुरंधर के 'जन्म की एक भूल' किताब के लोकार्पण से हुई। प्रो. चमनलाल कहा कि दुनिया में कई प्रदेशों में आप्रवासी हैं। वहाँ सभी का अपना प्रदेश बन गया है। मॉरीशस की अपनी संस्कृति है चाहे उसमें भारतीयता का रंग मौजूद हो। वहाँ का जीवन बड़ा ही शांत और समृद्ध है। साठ प्रतिशत लोग वहाँ भारतीय हैं। और वहाँ हिंदी ज्यादा बोली जाने वाली भाषा है। हिंदी साहित्य वहाँ जीवित और जीवंत रूप में दिखाई देता है। हिंदी के साथ-साथ भोजपुरी को संवैधानिक दर्जा दिया गया है और मॉरीशस सांस्कृतिक, प्राकृतिक रूप से बहुत ही समृद्ध और सशक्त है और वहाँ के लोग बहुत ही मेहनती हैं।

अतिथि वक्ता रामदेव धुरंधर ने कहा कि सार्थक रचना के लिए लेखक को अपने लेखन के प्रति ईमानदार होना जरूरी ही नहीं, बल्कि अनिवार्य भी है। 'पथरीला सोना' भोजपुरी समाज का ऐतिहासिक दस्तावेज है जिसमें 175 साल की महत्वपूर्ण घटनाओं को समेटा गया है। इस उपन्यास में आज के युग में मानवीय मूल्यों को खंडित होने से बचाने की वकालत की गई है। मॉरीशस के आप्रवासी समाज का सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक धार्मिक और आर्थिक

जन-जीवन का सच, उनके विस्थापन का दर्द और पूंजीवादी व्यवस्था के भीतर मजदूर वर्ग के शोषण के स्वरूप की विस्तार से चर्चा की है। अतः उनके रचना पाठ और संवाद के बहाने मॉरीशस के प्रवासी समाज और साहित्य के बारे में जानने-समझने का मौका मिला।

डॉ. जयप्रकाश कर्दम ने 'पथरीला सोना' की रचना प्रक्रिया पर बात करते हुए कहा कि रामदेव धुरंधर मॉरीशस के चर्चित हिंदी लेखक हैं। उनका चर्चित उपन्यास 'पथरीला सोना' आप्रवासी समाज की सच्चाइयों को अभिव्यक्त करता है। मानवीय संस्कृति का सर्वोत्तम मूल्य श्रम का महत्त्व इस उपन्यास में है। अतः 'पथरीला सोना' उपन्यास में आप्रवासी समाज के दुःख-दर्द और सामाजिक समस्याओं के विविध पहलुओं पर विमर्श किया है।

संगोष्ठी के प्रारंभ में आरंभिक वक्तव्य देते हुए डॉ. देवेन्द्र चौबे ने कहा कि रामदेव धुरंधर के लेखन में आप्रवासी समाज के दुःख-दर्द को बहुत ही बारीकी और गंभीरता से व्यक्त किया गया है। उसमें एक तरफ मॉरीशस में आज की परिस्थितियों में जी रहे लोगों की जिंदगी का चित्रण है, तो दूसरी तरफ प्रवासी समाज द्वारा किए गए संघर्षों की उपस्थिति भी।

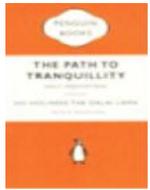
अंत में कुछ प्रश्नोत्तरों के पश्चात् प्रो. नाच्चिमुत्तू और प्रो. रामबक्ष जी द्वारा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन से कार्यक्रम संपन्न हुआ। प्रो. रामबक्ष ने अपने वक्तव्य में आप्रवासी लेखन पर ध्यान देने की बात की।

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## Our Publications

### List of Publications

#### School of Social Science



"The Path To Tranquillity" Daily Meditations – His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Penguin Books, by Renuka Singh, CSSS

#### Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies



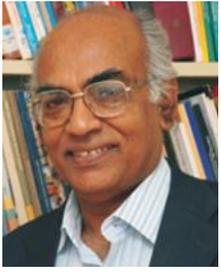
"Sanskrit-Hindi Machine Translation" Challenges in Noun Phrase Mapping, LAMBERT Academic Publishing by Kumar Nripendra Pathak, Research Scholar

#### School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies



"A Systematic Approach to Translation of Newspaper Materials from Russian into English (Part 1)" Goyal Publishers, by Meeta Narain, CRS

## An interview with George Mathew, Chairman, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi



**Wafa:** When and how did your association with JNU begin? What were your first impressions about this University?

**George Mathew** My association with Jawaharlal Nehru University began in 1974 when I joined M.A at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems. I completed M.A, M. Phil and Ph. D in 1980. As a young scholar I could weave an academic, social, and political life that changed my world view. My first impression about this university was one of a world of academic excellence where new ideas are generated through clash of ideas and conflict of ideologies.

**Wafa:** How would you describe your years at JNU?

**George Mathew** During my six years in JNU – (1974—1980) I found that JNU had a pool of academic talent and it attracted eminent academics on its faculty from all over India. Apart from this, the students who got admission to post graduate and M. Phil courses came from all parts of the country from varied social background and their life together in the university created the best academic environment. JNU campus was a social political laboratory. The fraternity and camaraderie one developed in JNU stands in good stead everywhere, inside the country, all over the world and in one's areas of work.

**Wafa:** Have you visited JNU recently?

**George Mathew** I last visited JNU on June 18, 2012 at the invitation of Vice –Chancellor Prof. M. Sushir Kumar Sopory to participate in the interactive session of distinguished alumni with a committee of expert peers from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). This was an extraordinary occasion when the discussions took me down the memory lane.

**Wafa:** How has JNU shaped your perception in relation to your profession? Do you think JNUites do things differently in your field (academics)?

**George Mathew** JNU has provided opportunities for testing one's ideas and theories with like minded friends as well as ideological foes. The political, healthy and intellectually sound environment at JNU gave us enormous confidence to face the world and its many challenges better. There is no doubt that JNU has become a trademark over the years across the country and even in Ivy league Universities abroad, with its academic achievements and fame brought to it by its faculty and old students.

**Wafa:** What was the trajectory that your career took after you left JNU? How is JNU different from various other institutions you have been a part of (if at all you think it is)?

**George Mathew** Immediately after completion of my Ph. D. I was invited by the University of Chicago, as a visiting fellow at the Centre for South Asian Studies. In early 1980's India was recovering from the turbulent times it passed through in the 70's when even democracy had been challenged. After spending a year in Chicago in 1982, I had to take a decision whether to continue there or return to India. I decided to return, to be part of the country's journey on the path of human development. Concentration of power in the hands of the few was the norm in our country; it had pushed the people to the margins. Instead of people's power, the country had an oligopoly of power. Therefore, I decided to work for the cause: "power to the people" by integrating research with action which was a rallying point for many intellectuals and activists. When I used to meet committed democrats, civil society and human rights activists of the time, the idea got crystallized to start a forum dedicated to systematic study of social issues and problems that confront India in a trans-disciplinary perspective. Against this background, the Institute of Social Sciences was founded to create knowledge and share with it with policy makers, workers, practitioner's organizations and others. The primary aims of the institute were the evolution of an informed and action oriented public opinion. It is a matter of great satisfaction that an Institute which started with only an idea without financial resources could find its feet. The institute has made modest contributions in areas such as

# Alumni Corner

decentralization of power, local governance, empowerment of women, fiscal decentralization, multi level federalism, and Human Rights to name a few, nationally and internationally.

**Wafa:** Which aspect of JNU did you love the most when you were a student here? Any particular memories that you would like to share?

**George Mathew** JNU was not only an intellectual centre but it also the hot bed of politics which had responded to the emerging socio political situations. For me JNU was a socio political laboratory. In a sense JNU'S exceptional intellectual ferment was grounded in the reality which showed the way where one should spend the rest of one's life.

The time we passed through in JNU during the political emergency in 1975 was most memorable. I was on the old campus in the married students flat and we passed day and night with agony and anxiety when many of our friends and student leaders were arrested and put behind bars. The Congress party's defeat and a couple of articles I wrote in BLITZ at that time as research fellow of JNU come to my mind now.

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

**George Mathew** The work I have done through the Institute of Social Sciences for the last 27 years can modestly contribute to the academic life, especially to social sciences. Exchange of ideas, field work experience by our researchers and JNU's doctoral students will be very important and it can enormously strengthen JNU's contribution to the knowledge base in the country. I will be happy to share my ideas and experiences with JNU fora on a regular basis. Since the Institute and JNU campus are near each other there is a lot of potential in this regard.

**Wafa:** What message would you like to give to the present JNU student community?

**George Mathew** We have entered the 21st century with great hopes. But the challenges we face are enormous. The JNU students must have a vision and mission for the future; a vision to be change agents and the mission to build a humane society. This can evolve from their campus life, discussions, debates, and discourses in the classrooms as well. Then, once they are committed to a clear mission in their life, that is to build a humane society, whichever career or profession they choose, with dedication and hard work they can achieve. There may be difficulties on the way, but one should never give up.

## OBITUARY



- Dr. Ravi Mohan Bakaya, Professor of Russian passed away on Sunday, 22 April, 2012



- Shri. Kiran Singh, Safaikaramchari, passed away on Wednesday, 23 May, 2012

We extend our condolences to the bereaved families.

JNU News welcomes contribution about Alumni Achievements/Awards. Please write to [pro@mail.jnu.ac.in](mailto:pro@mail.jnu.ac.in) OR

### Public Relations Officer

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Please attach a passport size photograph also

# Photo Gallery



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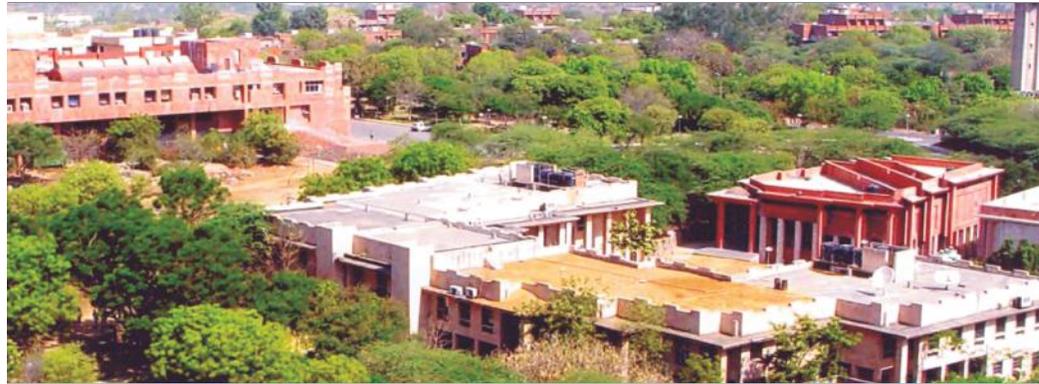


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1. A delegation from the Nanjing Audit University (NAU), China headed by Mr. Wang Jiaxin, President, NAU visited JNU on 17 April, 2012. Photo shows (from left) Mr. R. K. Verma, Finance Officer, JNU, Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector, Prof. S. K. Sopory, Vice-Chancellor, and Mr. Wang Jiaxin, President, NAU with other delegates.
2. A delegation from University of Western Australia, visited JNU on 27 April, 2012. Photo shows, Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector (second from left) along with members of delegation and officials from JNU.
3. A delegation from Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, Netherland visited JNU on 15 May, 2012 to strengthen the links between the two Universities. Photo shows Prof. Harjit Singh, Chief Advisor International Collaboration with a member of the delegation.
4. A National symposium on Microbes in Health and Agriculture was organized by School of Life Sciences from 12-13 March, 2012. Photo shows Prof. Neera Bhalla Sarin, Dean School o Life Sciences, Prof. T.P. Singh, Chief Guest, Professor Emeritus, AIIMS and Dr. Atul Johri, Associate Professor, SLS, releasing the book during the inaugural function.
5. Central Library and INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmadabad organized a two-days National Seminar on Managing Electronic Theses and Dissertations on 22-23 March 2012. Photo shows Dr. Vinod Chachra, delivering the lecture.
6. School of Life Science organized a one day "Brain Awareness Programme" on 13 April, 2012. Photo Shows Prof. Sudhir Kumar Sopory, Vice Chancellor presenting gifts to the participating students.



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

—जवाहरलाल नेहरू



7. The Central Library organized a lecture on “Depleting Archives and Disintegrating Histories” on 16 May, 2012. Photo shows Ms. Shilpi Rajpal, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of History, University of Delhi delivering the lecture.

8. School of Life Sciences organized “Fascination of Plants Day 2012” under the umbrella of European Plant Science on 18 May 2012. Photo shows Prof. Neela Bhalla Sarin, Dean, School of Life Sciences along with participating students.

9. Jawaharlal Nehru University Sports Office organized the Physical fitness training program for the JNU Mountaineering Club from 15-25 May 2012 at Sports Complex, JNU. Photo shows students attending the programme.

10. विश्वविद्यालय के विभिन्न अनुभागों/विभागों/संस्थानों में कार्यरत अनुभाग अधिकारियों के लिए 28 जून 2012 को एक हिंदी कार्यशाला आयोजित की गई। फोटो में विश्वविद्यालय के कुलसचिव डॉ. संदीप चटर्जी (बीच में) के साथ विभिन्न विभागों के अनुभाग अधिकारी एवं हिंदी एकक के स्टॉफ सदस्य।



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