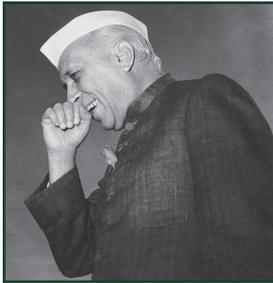




Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



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 the human being.

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

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



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

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In Conversation with....

An Interview with Prof. Romila Thapar, Professor Emeritus



Mansi: How and when did your journey to JNU begin? How has your experience been over the years?

Prof. Romila Thapar: I joined JNU in November 1970 when it was first started and I was, if I remember correctly, the fourth faculty member to be recruited. The Centre for Historical Studies recruited a core faculty in the Winter semester of 1971 and we spent that semester, prior to admitting students, in working out the courses that we would teach.

JNU decided to adopt the semester system. This was a new experience for us and we had to work out courses that could be taught within a semester. In some universities these days when there is a switch-over to a semester system, the existing one-year courses are simply cut into two and each taught in a different semester. This becomes something of a joke because it conforms to neither one or the other system. We were not just cutting the old one-year courses taught in other universities into two, as that is not the purpose or reasoning behind a semester system. Each course has to be oriented to a major theme and the purpose of the course is to analyze the theme. This meant that we had to think afresh about all the papers we wished to teach and justify why we were teaching them the way we were. The Vice-Chancellor, Mr. G. Parthasarathy made it clear that he did not want a repetition of any History syllabus from existing universities, and that he wanted an emphasis on inter-disciplinary history. So we really had to think of different but viable courses.

Since the teaching in the social sciences was at the post-graduate level it was possible for us to think of innovative courses. But this also explains why we needed time to plan the courses in an integrated but challenging fashion, before we began to teach them.

The experience of teaching at JNU was very different from Delhi University where I had been teaching earlier. At DU in those days, one lectured to a huge class, and that was all. At the end of the academic year one corrected exam papers and sometimes one did not even have to do that. There was no

contact with students and little discussion about what was being taught. In JNU we had smaller classes – each year's recruitment being limited to about 60 students – and those of us who taught ancient India had only a handful of students. This meant that one could allow discussion in the course of the lecture that not only enlivened the class but got students interested in the theme of the lecture. But above all we had a system of tutorials that made teaching and learning a joint enterprise of faculty and students, and required much up-to-date reading both by faculty and students – as it should be.

And let me add that tutorials were not based on plagiarizing from the Internet but had to reflect one's reading and understanding of the books recommended. What students do not often realize is that it is easy for the teacher to catch the parts that have been copied from the Internet because the style of writing changes.

We had few such problems in those days as we had bright students, eager to make the best of being with good teachers. So they preferred to write their own scripts and not copy. Even if they made mistakes they knew they would learn from their mistakes.

It is also worth keeping in mind that just prior to the opening of JNU there had been a student movement across America and Europe, which had also had some minor effect in India. There was therefore some awareness of the relevance of courses and what was being taught and there were therefore some discussions on these issues. It is a useful exercise to know the relevance of what is being taught.

Mansi: You have been with the university from the very beginning, how do you feel JNU has changed over the years that you have been here?

Prof. Romila Thapar: The most obvious change today is that classes are much bigger so the possibilities of student-teacher dialogue are tending to be less. Tutorials make sense if one teacher spends a morning discussing the essays of three or four students at most, but having to spend a day rushing through the essays of fifteen students changes the nature and purpose of the tutorial system. In this changed process the

emphasis on training students to think about their writing and reading fades away. Training students to think and to ask questions is a time-consuming process, but it is essential to education. Without it a student is reduced to learning by rote and reproducing what is memorized in exams. That is not what is meant by education. We used to make this argument fifty years ago, before JNU was started. Then after JNU started and with new methods of teaching, we stopped saying so, as there seemed to be the possibility of the process of education moving in a more positive direction. But now with recent developments in some other universities we have to repeat the same arguments.

Given the rate at which knowledge is advancing these days with new ways of retrieving and analyzing data, it is necessary to reconsider courses every twenty years and if there are substantial changes or significant changes, these have to be incorporated even to the point of changing the nature of the course. This is not to say that everything has to be changed every twenty years but certainly an assessment has to be made of whether what is being taught is up-to-date. The end purpose of education is lost if discarded ideas are re-introduced simply because someone in authority wants them as part of the curriculum. One way of introducing innovative ideas is to bring them in as an optional course.

Mansi: You have been part of different universities as a faculty member as well as a research fellow, within India and abroad. How do you think JNU is different from these places?

Prof. Romila Thapar: JNU is not too different from the better universities abroad. So far we have managed to maintain standards and I hope there will be nothing to prevent this in the future. I am always complimented when I go to a good university abroad and am told that they like having students from JNU because we train them so well. And that is saying a lot. But training requires being up-to-date with information and methods of analyzing the data.

Mansi: Being a Professor Emeritus, do you wish certain goals or vision this university or your school should adopt?

Prof. Romila Thapar: A well-equipped library and smaller libraries catering to the Centres, run efficiently with up-to-date reading material made available easily, as well as a regular

tutorial system, are both essential to good teaching. When these get curtailed or become inefficient, then one knows that the university standards are falling. When such a decline comes in then good faculty and students are not attracted to the university. A university also has to maintain an efficient teacher-student ratio and this cannot be measured mechanically in the number of hours a faculty member teaches. So if student numbers shoot up then arrangements have to be made to rationalize the teaching. This is usually done by recruiting more faculty, the problem here being that such qualified faculty may not be available. Sub-standard faculty also knocks the foundations out of a university.

This is a problem being faced by many universities and perhaps one way of lessening the effect of poor quality faculty is to set up subsidized training programmes of a couple of years duration to prepare those who have been chosen to teach in colleges and universities, but for whatever reason are not properly equipped. This does not require a more intensive study of a particular discipline, but instead a focus on familiarity with the general intellectual approach to tertiary teaching, namely, a familiarity with logic, principles of causality and critical enquiry and, equally important, a better understanding of the medium of instruction whatever it may be. It is not enough merely to know how to speak and write a language, one also has to know how to think analytically in that language, since this kind of thinking is what makes the difference between a good teacher and an ordinary teacher.

Mansi: Any special memory of JNU that you would like to share with us?

Prof. Romila Thapar: I can't think of any special memory of a JNU happening. I used to enjoy interviewing students seeking admission to the MA because we always got some hilarious answers and some unexpected surprises. When we asked a student what he or she was reading we often got the names of books and authors that we had not heard of. Some of us on our next trip to a bookshop would have a look at these just to get an idea.

I remember one year when a few students all from the same college kept referring to novels by Mills and Boon, of which I knew nothing except that they were popular reading. I happened to be at an airport later and going through the bookshop came across a Mills and Boon novel that I picked up

In Conversation with....

and read out of curiosity. It gave me a great insight into what that bunch of students thought was worth reading!

A more dramatic occasion was when we had trouble on the campus in 1983 and the police had been called in and they arrested some students. When asked for their names they gave the names of faculty members instead of their own. So they were listed as Bipan Chandra, KN Panikkar, Romila Thapar, Krishna Bhardwaj and so. The next morning the Vice-Chancellor rang me and said that I had been booked for creating a disturbance on the campus! That took some clearing up.

Mansi: A message you would like to give to the JNU student community?

Prof. Romila Thapar: I don't know what message I would like to give to the student community. I am now of an age when I am in the great-grand-parents generation of the students of today. So obviously I see life very differently. But what I would like to emphasize is that being educated is not just having a degree that gets you a job, it is more important to realize that you have to take an intelligent interest in the world around you and no matter which discipline or walk of life you are in, education should enable you to constantly question and improve on the knowledge that you receive from wherever you receive it. Don't take whatever is given to you unthinkingly, so go on asking probing questions.

Movements & Appointments

New Appointments/Deans/Directors/Chairpersons

- ◆ Prof. R. Madhubala, School of Life Sciences as Director, Academic Staff College for a period of two years.
- ◆ Prof. Anupama Roy, Centre for Political Studies as Concurrent Faculty and Chairperson, Centre for Media Studies, School of Social Sciences, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Dr. Deo Shankar Navin as Professor in Hindi Translation, Centre of Indian Languages, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Lata Singh as Associate Professor in the Women's Studies Programme, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Allauddin Shah as Associate Professor, Centre of Persian & Central Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies.
- ◆ Shri Vikas Bajpai as Assistant Professor, Centre for Social Medicine & Community Health, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Ms. Shambhavi Prakash as Assistant Professor, Centre for German Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies.

Administration

- ◆ Shri Ram Krishna Datta as Senior Assistant in Administration Branch-I.
- ◆ Shri Krishan Dev as Senior Assistant in Administration Branch-II.
- ◆ Ms. Supriya as Senior Assistant in Finance & Accounts Department.
- ◆ Shri Kumayil Ahmad as Senior Assistant in Administration Branch-I.
- ◆ Shri Rupendra Singh as Senior Technical Assistant, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Smt. Reena Nainwal as Personal Assistant in Office of Chief Proctor.
- ◆ Smt. Soni Aggarwal as Stenographer, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Shri Rakesh Kumar Karn as Laboratory Attendant, School of Computer & Systems Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Devender Singh as Security Guard in Security Branch.
- ◆ Smt. Sita Devi as Mess Helper in Inter Hostel Administration.

Movements & Appointments

- ◆ Smt. Seema as Safaikaramchari in Sanitation Cell (Estate Branch).

Retirement & Resignation

- ◆ Prof. Tulsi Ram, Centre for Russian & Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Prof. Harjit Singh, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Shri D.K. Mehta, Administrative Officer, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Smt. Shashi Kapoor, Personal Assistant, Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Shri N.K. Uppal, Professional Assistant, Central Library.
- ◆ Shri R.P. Thukral, Professional Assistant, Central Library.
- ◆ Shri Braham Prakash, Professional Assistant, Central Library.
- ◆ Shri I.D. Nautiyal, Assistant, Sabarmati Hostel.
- ◆ Shri Bishan Chand, Senior Laboratory Assistant, School of Life Sciences.
- ◆ Smt. Tulsa Devi, Office Attendant, Office of Director of Admissions.
- ◆ Shri Jai Kishan, Security Guard, Security Branch.
- ◆ Shri Dharambir, Security Guard, Security Branch.
- ◆ Shri Prem Pal, Sanitary Guide, Periyar Hostel.
- ◆ Shri Om Prakash, Animal Attendant, Animal House.
- ◆ Shri Jeet Singh, Mess Helper, Sabarmati Hostel.
- ◆ Shri Gopal Singh, Mess Helper, Kaveri Hostel.
- ◆ Shri Inderjeet Ram, Mess Helper, Godavari Hostel.
- ◆ Shri Ram Singh, Lift Operator, Engineering Branch.
- ◆ Shri K.L. Debnath, Khalasi (Civil), Engineering Branch.



Prof. Prasenjit Sen is appointed as Rector

Prasenjit Sen is professor at the School of Physical Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He joined the School in 1990 as Assistant Professor. From 1987 to 1990 he was Guest Research Scientist at KFA, Julich, West Germany. Since joining the School, he has taught courses in the field of Electronics, Atomic and Molecular Physics, condensed matter Physics (Theory), Physics Laboratory (Electronics) and Modern Experiments. His current research interests included Condensed matter Physics: Electronic Properties, Surfaces, MoV Ion interaction with Solids/Surfaces, Many Body processes, Nonlinear Transport of Energy in Condensed matter, Artificially Reordered Structures Including nanostructures and Biological nanostructures; MEMS Pressure Sensors; Quantum dots. He was fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (FNAE), 2009 and presently sole FNAE from JNU.

He has authored around 110 Research Paper and has several patents to his credit.

Notification

The Vice Chancellor has constituted a University Safety Committee consisting of the following to comply with the guidelines of UGC regarding procurement, storage, usage and disposal of radioactive and other hazardous material/chemicals as communicated vide UGC letter dated 10.01.2011.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Prof. Suman K. Dhar | : Chairman |
| 2. Dr. Gautam Patra | : Chief Medical Officer |
| 3. Sh. Ravinder Kumar | : Fire Inspector |
| 4. Sh. Umakant Agarwal
Dy. Registrar (Acad.) | : Communication Officer |
| 5. Sh. Naveen Yadav | : Chief Security Officer |
| 6. Sh. S.K. Mishra | : Radiation Safety Officer & Member Secretary |

The meeting of the above said committee will be held at least once a month and its proceedings shall reported to the UGC on a regular basis.

Achievements/Awards



◆ **Prof. Shashi Prabha Kumar**, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies as Vice-Chancellor, Sanchi University of Buddhist – India Studies, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.



◆ **Prof. C. Upender Rao**, Chairperson, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, has received “Delhi Gourav” samman from Mr. Harish Rawat, Central Cabinet Minister, in a glittering public ceremony. The programme was organized by “Parvateeya Vikas Samiti” during the Uttarayani Mahotasav 2014.

CAAS: Achievements of students

The Center of Arabic and African Studies, SLL&CS is pleased to announce that the following four M.Phil/Ph.D students of the centre have been invited (all expenses covered) by the United Nations Educational Impact, New York to attend the United Nation's “Many Languages One World Global Youth Forum” from 25-29 June, 2014 in New York. The invitation came after their winning submission to the “Many Languages One World Essay Contest” organized by the United Nations Educational Impact, New York.

The Essay contest was organized by the UN Academic Impact in the six official UN languages namely Arabic, Chinese, French, English, Russian and Spanish on the subject “Many Languages One World” for non native speakers of these languages in order to promote multilingualism and global citizenship. The Award letter mentions that 60 contestants were selected, 10 from each of the six UN official Languages, out of nearly 1500 submissions from 128 countries. Our winning students said that their writing about the unique multilingual and multicultural experience of JNU in Arabic probably helped them in winning the contest.

They will participate in a carefully planned schedule of events. as part of the UN's “Many Languages One World Global Youth Forum” at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Preceded by a preparatory students' conference.

As per the information available, there are only four winners of the contest from India and all the four are JNU students.

Irfan Ahmad, Ph.D student in CAAS/SLL&CS and one of the winners' of the contest. Tajammul Haque, Farhan Ansari, and Abul Mufazzal, M.Phil students in CAAS/SLL&CS are the three other winners of the contest.



Irfan Ahmad, Ph.D,
CAAS/SLL&CS



Tajammul Haque, M.Phil,
CAAS/SLL&CS



Farhan Ansari, M.Phil,
CAAS/SLL&CS



Abul Mufazzal, M.Phil,
CAAS/SLL&CS

Campus Activities

विशिष्ट संस्कृत अध्ययन केन्द्र में दलित साहित्य की वैचारिक पृष्ठ भूमि पर चर्चा का आयोजन

25 मार्च, 2014 को विशिष्ट संस्कृत अध्ययन केन्द्र में दलित साहित्य की वैचारिक पृष्ठ भूमि विषय पर आधारित चर्चा-सत्र का आयोजन किया गया। चर्चा सत्र के मुख्य अतिथि विख्यात शिक्षाविद् तथा राज्य सभा सदस्य डॉ. जनार्दन वाघमारे तथा मुख्यवक्तापूर्व न्यायाधीश श्री विकास श्रीधर श्री पुरकर थे। चर्चा सत्र की अध्यक्षता विशिष्ट संस्कृत अध्ययन केन्द्र की अध्यक्ष

प्रोफेसर शशिप्रभा कुमार ने की तथा इस कार्यक्रम का संयोजन डॉ. सुधीर कुमार ने किया। चर्चा सत्र के प्रारम्भ में ही डॉ. जनार्दन वाघमारे द्वारा लिखित पुस्तक ‘दलित साहित्य की वैचारिक पृष्ठभूमि’ का विमोचन भी किया गया। दिल्ली के शिवालिक प्रकाशन से प्रकाशित इस पुस्तक में दलित साहित्य के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर विचार किया गया है। यह पुस्तक न

केवल दलित साहित्य की अवधारणा पर प्रकाश डालती है, अपितु दलित जीवन के सौन्दर्य, राजनीति, धर्म तथा संस्कृति का भी उद्घाटन करती है।

प्रो. शशिप्रभा कुमार ने मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. जनार्दन वाघमारे के शैक्षिक जीवन से लेकर राजनीतिक जीवन तक का परिचय दिया। जनार्दन वाघमारे ने दलित साहित्य पर बोलते हुए कई बिन्दुओं के बारे में प्रकाश डाला, जिन में वर्ण व्यवस्था, जाति व्यवस्था, बाबा साहेब भीमराव अम्बेडकर का साहित्य, ग्रामीण संस्कृति इत्यादि प्रमुख हैं। श्री विकास श्रीधर श्री पुरकर ने विधि के माध्यम से छूआछूत निवारण तथा जाति विध्वंसक विचारों को

सहजता से समझाया। दिल्ली संस्कृत अकादमी के सचिव डॉ. धर्मेन्द्र शास्त्री ने भी पुस्तक पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किये। उन्होंने बताया कि जनार्दन वाघमारे द्वारा महाराष्ट्र के लातूर में एक आदर्श गाँव स्थापित किया गया है, जहाँ जाति-व्यवस्था का चिन्ह भी नहीं है। इस चर्चा सत्र में प्रो. सी. उपेन्द्रराव एवं डॉ. रजनीश कुमार मिश्र भी उपस्थित थे। चर्चा सत्र के अवसान पर प्रो. शशिप्रभा कुमार ने अभ्यागतों का धन्यवाद ज्ञापन किया।

विकास सिंह, पीएचडी. शोधार्थी
विशिष्ट संस्कृत अध्ययन केन्द्र, जनेवि

“साहित्य हमारे समय का आख्यान है” जनेवि में ‘हमारे समय का साहित्य’ विषयक राष्ट्रीय परिसंवाद

‘पिछले दो-ढाई दशकों में साहित्य पर विचार विमर्श की प्रक्रिया बदली है। खासकर, सामाजिक अस्मिता से जुड़े सवालों ने साहित्य और विचारधारा की दुनिया को गहराई से प्रभावित किया है तथा लेखकों और विचारकों पर, उन मुद्दों पर संवाद करने के लिए दबाव बनाया है जो वंचित समाज के रहे हैं तथा जिनके सवाल मुख्यधारा के चिंतन की प्रक्रिया से लगभग बाहर रहे हैं। साहित्य पर हुई इन बहसों ने पाठकों और श्रोताओं के मन में मनुष्यता की भावना का विस्तार किया है तथा वह और अधिक मनुष्य हुआ है। साहित्य की भूमिका भी यही होती है।’ पिछले दिनों 25 से 27 मार्च, 2014 तक जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के भारतीय भाषा केंद्र के द्वारा आयोजित ‘हमारे समय का साहित्य’ पर केन्द्रित तीन दिवसीय परिसंवाद और रचना पाठ में उभरकर यह बातें आईं।

परिसंवाद का उद्घाटन करते हुए विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति प्रो. सुधीर कुमार सोपोरी ने कहा कि यह आयोजन अपने आप में अनूठा है। सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि कार्यक्रम में जहां एक ओर साहित्य और समाज से संबद्ध पक्षों पर चर्चा की जाएगी, वहीं दूसरी ओर चर्चित रचनाकार अपनी रचनाओं का पाठ भी करेंगे। इससे आम आदमी वर्तमान साहित्यिक परिवेश से सरलता से परिचित हो सकेगा। ‘हमारा समय और साहित्य’ नामक इस सत्र में उद्घाटन व्याख्यान देते हुए हिन्दी के प्रख्यात आलोचक नामवर सिंह ने कहा कि वर्तमान समय को पूंजीवादी ताकतों और जनविरोधी सरकारी नीतियों ने अत्यंत जटिल बना दिया है। इस बदलते हुए परिवेश में मनुष्य के महत्त्व पर सबसे ज्यादा आघात हुआ है। इसके कारण हमारे समय के साहित्य की रचना भूमि और सामाजिक भूमिका तेजी से प्रभावित हुई है, जिससे समाज के वंचित समाज का साहित्य सामने आने लगा है। इस क्रम में स्त्री साहित्य और दलित साहित्य को देख सकते हैं। सत्र का मुख्य वक्तव्य देते हुए विख्यात आलोचक मैनेजर पाण्डेय ने



कहा कि आज आत्मसंघर्ष की चर्चा तो साहित्य में पर्याप्त हो रही है, किन्तु यह समाज-संघर्ष का विरोधी बन गया है। यथार्थवाद के नाम पर हिन्दी के साहित्यकार साहित्य को वास्तविकता से दूर ले जा रहे हैं। इस भेद को समाप्त करना ही वर्तमान साहित्य की सबसे बड़ी चुनौती है। सत्र में वरिष्ठ कवि कंदारनाथ सिंह ने ‘बनारस’ कविता का पाठ किया। कथाकार मृदुला गर्ग ने अपने उपन्यास ‘मिलजुल मन’ के कुछ अंश सुनाए। हंस के पूर्व कार्यकारी संपादक संजीव ने भी रचना पाठ में हिस्सेदारी की। लेखक प्रेमपाल शर्मा ने पठित रचनाओं पर चर्चा की। कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत में आलोचक देवेन्द्र चौबे ने परिसंवाद का परिचय देते हुए सन ‘90 के बाद की उन बदलती हुई सामाजिक, राजनीतिक और आर्थिक परिस्थितियों को रेखांकित किया, जिन्होंने साहित्य की दुनिया को गहराई से प्रभावित किया है। इससे पूर्व भारतीय भाषा केंद्र के अध्यक्ष और वरिष्ठ आलोचक रामबक्ष ने अतिथियों का स्वागत किया और कहा कि यह परिसंवाद इसलिए अनूठा है कि इसमें लेखक, पाठक और आलोचक एक-साथ बैठकर साहित्य के सवालों पर विचार-विमर्श करेंगे। भाषा साहित्य और संस्कृति अध्ययन संस्थान के डीन और भाषाविद एम असलम इस्लाही ने सत्र की

Campus Activities



अध्यक्षता करते हुए कहा कि रचनात्मकता मनुष्य के अस्तित्व का मूल तत्व है। अकादमिक आयोजनों में इसे महत्व दिया जाना चाहिए।

परिसंवाद का दूसरा दिन कथा साहित्य पर केन्द्रित था जिसमें 'हमारा समय और कथा-साहित्य' पर मुख्य व्याख्यान देते हुए प्रख्यात आलोचक रोहिणी अग्रवाल ने कहा कि आस्मितावादी साहित्य ने समाज के बिखरे हुए टुकड़ों को जोड़ने का कार्य किया है। जहां एक ओर स्त्री साहित्य ने स्त्रियों से जुड़ी अनेक समस्याओं को पहली बार इतने बड़े स्तर पर साहित्य का विषय बनाया है, वहीं दलित ने आभिजात्य वर्ग के शोषण की विद्रूपता को तीखे दर्द के साथ प्रस्तुत किया है। आज की कहानी ने दलित विमर्श के सवाल को पूरी शिद्दत के साथ उठाया है। उन्होंने कहा कि आज का कथाकार अपनी अभिव्यक्ति के लिए जादुई यथार्थ का भी सहारा ले रहा है, लेकिन सामाजिक सरोकारों के लेखन के इस दौर में प्रेम कहानियाँ कम लिखी जा रही हैं। कार्यक्रम के दौरान रचना पाठ में पंकज बिष्ट ने 'पंखों वाली नावें रू कैक्टस वाला बंगला', प्रेमकुमार मणि ने 'इमलियाँ', सृजन विश्वनाथन ने 'पल भर में', सूर्यनाथ सिंह ने 'ठठेरे की मशीन', राकेश तिवारी ने 'अंधेरी दुनिया के उजले कमरे' और हरिराम मीणा ने 'धूणी तपे तीर' के अंशों का पाठ किया। रचना पाठ के बाद आयोजित परिसंवाद में कथाकार कमल कुमार, श्यौराज सिंह बैचन, संजीव कुमार, बलवंत कौर, स्मिता चतुर्वेदी, डी. के. लोबियाल, ओमप्रकाश सिंह, आर थामोथरन, रामचंद्र, गंगा सहाय मीणा आदि के साथ बड़ी संख्या में छात्रों ने हिस्सा लिया।

कार्यक्रम का तीसरा दिन काव्य साहित्य पर केन्द्रित था, जिसमें 'हमारा समय और कविता' पर मुख्य व्याख्यान देते हुए वरिष्ठ आलोचक प्रो. रविभूषण ने कहा कि आज का समय वित्तीय पूंजी, लम्पट पूंजी, आवारा पूंजी का है। इस बदले हुए पूंजीवाद ने जीवन के प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में प्रवेश कर लिया है और मानवीय जीवन को विकृत बना दिया है। कवि और कविता का यथार्थ तेजी से बदल रहा है। साहित्य के माध्यम से सामाजिक-संघर्ष की आवश्यकता का चित्रण करने वाले रचनाकार अपने जीवन में इसके विपरीत व्यवहार कर रहे हैं। जिससे कवि की आंखों के

सामने उसकी रचना नष्ट हो रही है, पाठकों की संख्या नित्य तीव्रता से कम हो रही है। कविता में चित्रित जीवन से कवि का जीवन पूरी तरह अलग होता जा रहा है। समकालीन कविता का यह सबसे बड़ा संकट है और आज के कवि की सबसे बड़ी चुनौती इस संकट से कविता को बाहर निकालने की है। काव्य-पाठ सत्र में अशोक वाजपेयी, मंगलेश डबराल, मकरंद परांजपे, अनामिका, लीलाधर मंडलोई, बद्रीनारायण, दिनेश सिंदल और जयप्रकाश कर्दम ने अपनी कविताओं का पाठ किया। रविकेश मिश्र ने कोरिया के चर्चित कवि को उनकी कविताओं के अनुवाद का पाठ किया। सत्र का संचालन करते हुए प्रो. गोबिंद प्रसाद ने भी अपनी कविताएँ सुनाई। परिसंवाद में भाग लेते हुए कवि दुर्गा प्रसाद गुप्त ने जहां समकालीन कविता की चुनौतियों की चर्चा की, वहाँ उर्दू के शायर अख्ताक अहमद आहन ने कविता के वैश्विक परिप्रेक्ष्य का उल्लेख किया। उनीता सच्चिदानंद, मणीन्द्र नाथ ठाकुर, राजेश पासवान, रमण प्रसाद सिन्हा, शिव प्रकाश सहित अनेक शोधछात्रों और पाठकों ने परिचर्चा में भाग लिया।

समापन सत्र में जनसत्ता के संपादक ओम थानवी ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा कि साहित्य और समाज में भेद बढ़ाने का आज सबसे बड़े कारक हिन्दी के ही लोग हैं। इनमें सबसे पहले प्रकाशन समूह जिम्मेदार हैं। जो एक सुनियोजित तरीके से साहित्य की श्रेष्ठ रचनाओं को पाठ्यक्रमों और विचार-विमर्श के केंद्र से बाहर रखते हैं। लोग धन कमाने की चाहत में अनावश्यक पुस्तकों को बिना किसी मूल्यांकन के प्रकाशित कर देते हैं। इसके अलावा बड़े-बड़े आलोचक अपने व्यक्तिगत लाभों को ध्यान में रखकर रचनाओं का खंडन अथवा श्रेष्ठता स्थापित करते हैं। ईमानदारी के अभाव में ऐसे लोग अपने हितों को चमकाने के क्रम में साहित्य का गला घोटने में लगे हुए हैं। इन खामियों पर ध्यान दिए बगैर समकालीन साहित्य की दुनिया को संवारना संभव नहीं है, और यह बहुत कठिन नहीं है। अगर कुछ साहित्यकार लक्ष्यबद्ध तरीके से इस प्रयोजन में जुट जाएं तो इस स्थिति को बदला जा सकता है और वर्तमान दौर में साहित्य का समुचित विकास हो सकता है। प्रो. तुलसी राम ने अपनी आत्मकथा के बहाने आत्मसंघर्ष और समाज संघर्ष के द्वंद्व पर अपनी बात रखी। उन्होंने कहा कि मेरी आत्मकथाओं के शीर्षक मृत्यु से इसलिए जुड़े हुए हैं क्योंकि उनके गाँव और बनारस की कल्पना मृत्यु के बिना नहीं की जा सकती। सत्र के अंत में विश्वविद्यालय के कुलसचिव डॉ. संदीप चटर्जी ने आमंत्रित लेखकों के प्रति आभार प्रकट करते हुए अपनी एक कविता का पाठ किया और संगीत-मीडिया से जुड़ी पूनम एस कुदेसिया ने इस आयोजन को जनेवि साहित्योत्सव बताते हुए विश्वविद्यालय की ओर से आए हुए सभी अतिथियों को धन्यवाद ज्ञापित किया।

दीप कुमार मित्तल, गणपत तेली, देविना अक्षयवर
भारतीय भाषा केंद्र, जनेवि

Campus Activities

JNU Music Club: The Journey Begins

This is about music that refreshes you to the core of your being, music for the sake of music alone, this is JNU Music Club that has been in fully functional from last October onwards.

It has been our great pleasure to be the first cohort of students to experience the blooming of this effort and bring JNU students under one roof, the roof of music. Students come to this University from far-fetched corners of this country, and there has never been any dearth of campus initiatives to embrace their spirit. But it was felt that there was a need for a place for students to nurture their cultural skills, irrespective of their social or political identities, an organization that would stand for the rich cultural heritage that the students of JNU bring along and may carry forward. Hence the birth of our very own JNU Music Club.

With constant encouragement from Prof. Manjushree Chauhan, the cultural coordinator of JNU, and sincere guidance from the veteran musician Shri Kajal Ghosh, the club started functioning around October 2013 with 5-6 students, this number has more than doubled now. Our main emphasis is on Hindusthani classical and folk music and we are sincerely working towards preparing a JNU Musical Choir. Till now, we have given four stage performances. The first of these was in a musical evening organized by 'Bahroop', while the second was in the 'Acoustics Evening' organized by JNU Music Club itself. The two most recent performances were on 19th April at JNU Convention Centre and on 9th May at the Arts and Aesthetics Auditorium on the very auspicious occasion of Rabindranath Tagore's Birth Anniversary. While the latter was part of a celebration organized jointly with 'Hujuge', the one on 19th April was presented solely by us alone. That evening we performed one Shukti from the Rig Veda, two Compositions of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, one Rajasthani folk, the youth international and another Hindi song in Chorus. We also had some solo performances, which included compositions of



Amir Khusro, Nazrul Islam, Salil Chowdhury, Kailash Kher, and in a beautiful contrast, Tagore's composition in Bengali performed by a Rajasthani girl and a Rajasthani folk performed by a Bengali girl. The Programme concluded with Shri Kajal Ghosh's recital of a Lalan Geeti (Bengali Folk) that left all of us completely spellbound.

But programs and performances apart, coming to the music class every Monday and Thursday, practicing and rehearsing together and listening to Sir (Shri Kajal Ghosh) are the best part of our experience.

We would like to hold the doors of the Music Club wide-open for all those JNU students who wish to join this club. The classes continue even during vacations. Timings are from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (approx.) on Mondays and Thursdays.

We remain...

looking forward to all JNUites, who are sincerely interested in embracing Music.

**Anwsha Mukherjee, M.Phil Student,
Centre for Economics Studies & Planning, SSS, &
Tirthankar Bhattacharyya, Ph.D Student,
Centre for Inner Asian Studies, SIS**

Seminars/Conferences

“Locked in Growth Patterns: Revisiting land and disasters for the post-2015 Developmental Agenda for the Asia Pacific”

Network of Asia-Pacific Schools and Institutes of Public Administration and Governance (NAPSIPAG) is the only non-

west governance research network in the Asia Pacific. It is located at the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance but

Seminar/Conference

in consideration of the demand for interdisciplinary governance studies, it functions in collaboration with many other Centres from the School of Social Sciences, School of International Studies and some Science schools also. The three day (December, 7-9) conference of this Network organized at the JNU Convention centre has been a culmination of the continuing efforts being made by the JNU and Asia-Pacific scholars since 2010 to create a platform of mutual learning amongst government, academia and community based organizations on issues of land and natural resources management.

The **fundamental philosophy** of the conference was to interrogate policies of consumerism and commoditization of nature which destroys the carrying capacity of land and water resources. The GNP/GDP based development has made the world more vulnerable to natural calamities, labeled "Natural" but mostly "manmade".

The organizing committee was drawn from various centres within JNU and several policy relevant institutes in Delhi. Prof. Mondira Dutta, Prof. Vaishna Narang, Prof. Susan Vishwanathan, Prof. Sachidanand Sinha, Prof. Bhupinder Zutshi and Prof. Saraswati Raju got together to design the framework of this interdisciplinary discourse on disasters. The Delhi based institutions which joined the organizing committee were the Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA, Gurgaon), Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences (MoH,GoI), Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi University, Central Law University, Delhi, National Informatics Centre (NIC), Indian Institute of Public Administration and UNDP.

Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development Mr. Jairam Ramesh was the Chief Guest. Prof. S.K.Sopory gave the welcome address. The NAPSIPAG founder Dr. Jak Jabes gave away the awards for outstanding contribution to public administration practice and knowledge dissemination to Asian scholars and

practitioners. Prof. C.P. Bhambhri, Distinguished Professor from JNU received the award from India along with Dr. K. Jay Kumar (IAS) who started the evaluation of best governance practices in government. From other Asian countries awards were received by Dr. Md. Gazali Abas (Director, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Office, Malaysia), Prof. Agus Dwiyanto(Director,NIPA , Jakarta, Indonesia), Prof. Shamsur Rahman (Former Vice Chancellor Jat Iyo Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University at Trishal, Mymensingh, Bangladesh), Prof. Lalitha Fernando (University of Jayawardanapura), Mr. Raza Ahmad (Former ADB Governance Division, Manila), Prof. Eduardo Gonzalez (Asian Centre, University of Philippines, Manila), Dr. Nivedita P. Haran (Addl. Chief Secretary, Kerala & Director General IMG), Prof. Shree Krishna Shrestha (Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal) and Prof. David Rosenbloom (American University, Washington DC) for his insightful critique of New Public Management as applied on Asian countries. The Young Scholar's award was given to Dr. Sylvia Yambem for having managed the network for a period of four years with exceptional competence, managerial skills and maturity. The Minister also launched the 'NAPSIPAG Young Scholars and Administrator's Forum' as a platform for a more meaningful contribution of the young policy makers towards their land and people.

The UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Lise Grande released three books: "A Critical Impulse of e-Governance by Prof. Amita Singh (JNU), "Delhi by Heart" by Mr. Raza Ahmad Rumi (Pakistan) and 'Public Policy' by Prof. Sarfraz Khawaza.

Ms. Shandana Khan, CEO of Pakistan's largest community based organization, Rural Support Programme Network was the Guest of Honor. Prof. David Rosenbloom from the American University at Washington DC suggested the constitution of an appropriate administrative structure which could act as a vanguard of natural resources like land, rivers and forests. His Excellency Ambassador of Afghanistan Mr. Shaida Md. Abdali highlighted how ambassadors can play a guiding role in increased need for cooperation and partnerships to address cross border environmental contingencies and climate change impacts.

The conference had four plenary sessions. Justice Gita Mittal from the Delhi High Court was the key speaker in the first plenary. Co-speaker Mr. M.C.Mehta, the environmental lawyer and Dr. Nivedita P. Haran who was the administrator closely working to get the illegally occupied forest land vacated also spoke in this session.



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The second plenary took place in the Rashtrapati Bhawan where the delegates could interact and participate in the innovative ICT arrangement. Mr. Suresh Yadav, (OSD) presented his work and responded to queries and questions.

The third plenary discussed the policies for disaster prevention and mitigation. Scholars from Japan, Bangladesh and Denmark and India presented papers. This session was Chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice Ms. Stuti Kakkar. The complete session planning and theme setting was done by Mr. Ajay Arora, a student from the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance.

The fourth plenary was on 'Technology based solutions for disaster mitigation and prevention'. The session was Chaired by Mr. Puneet Sethi, CEO of the REI company. Mr. D.C.Mishra of NIC co-chaired the session.

This NAPSIPAG conference celebrated the 10th year of the existence of the network and more than 21 countries participated in it.

The Valedictory Session was Chaired by the JNU Rector Prof. Sudha Pai. The Chief Guest was the Hon'ble Vice Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority, Shri Shashidhar Reddy. The VC distributed prizes for the poster competition titled "LAND GRAB AND DISASTERS". The first prize – Rs.10,000/- was

won by Dimple, Nandini, Nisha, Anuradha and Sonia from JDM College DU, Second Prize- Rs.8000/- won by Arpita Biswas of CESP, JNU and the two third prizes- Rs. 3000 each went to Shalini, Monika, Renu, Nehal and Karuna, Anisha, Neetu and Neha from DU. The VC also released a book of NAPSIPAG scholars from Asia on CLIMATE CHANGE edited by Prof. Huong Ha from Singapore and Prof. Teknath Dhakal from Nepal.

Outcome of the conference:

The conference highlighted three main aspects:

- The need for an interdisciplinary Asia-specific disaster studies centre at JNU
- A new institutional design for convergence planning
- The role of youth in creating networks to conserve and protect the planet

The organizers placed on record the support that came in from UNDP, ICSSR and NDMA. Her Excellency Madam Lise Grande's speech and knowledge management from the DG of IMG (Trivandrum) and Addl. Chief Secretary Kerala Dr. Nivedita P. Haran were much appreciated.

**Amita Singh, Professor,
Centre for the Study of Law and Governance**

National conference on "Pali and Indian Culture" from 22-23 March, 2014

Insightful debates and scholarly discussions were the prominent features of the two day National conference on "Pali and Indian culture" jointly organized by the Special centre for Sanskrit Studies, JNU and Indira Gandhi National centre for the Arts, New Delhi. The conference was held in JNU from 22 to 23 March, 2014 and Prof. C. Upender Rao, Professor in Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies was the Conference Director.

Inaugural session

The conference commenced with an 'Inaugural Session' on 22 March, 2014 that was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of JNU, Prof. S. K. Sopory. Geshe Dorji Damdul, Director, Tibet House, Delhi was the Chief Guest on the occasion and Mrs. Dipali Khanna, member secretary of IGNSA was the guest of honour. Prof. Sopory in his inaugural speech expressed his delight over the conference. He said that the convening of a conference on



Pali is a very innovative task and this was possible through the efforts of Prof. Rao from the Centre for Sanskrit Studies. He expressed his good wishes for the success of the conference. Prof. N. H. Samthani, former professor of Pali and the President Award winner in Pali delivered the keynote address. He said that merely becoming professor in a university is not

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enough; one has to work for the upliftment of ancient languages like Pali and Sanskrit and Prof. Rao is engaged in such a noble endeavour. Prof. Shashiprabha Kumar, Chairperson, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, JNU welcomed the guests. Prof. Rao presented a detailed concept note of the conference. He said that Pali is our ancient language and an integral part of Indian cultural heritage. It is our duty to protect it. Hence a national conference is organized for the first time in JNU.

Mrs. Veena Joshi, Joint Secretary from IGNCA said that this conference was proposed by Prof. Upender Rao. A scholar in Pali and Sanskrit and understanding the depth of its subject. The IGNCA extended support for it. She said that one of the greatest contributions of Pali is the vast Theravada literature of early Buddhism. Geshe Dorji Damdul, Director, Tibet House, Delhi who was the Chief Guest on the occasion emphasized on the need for the implementation of the teachings of Buddha which are available in Pali. He said that Lord Buddha taught about the mind and several other interesting subjects. Mahamandaleshwar Swamy Dr. Gurusharananand ji from udasin karshni tradition, Mathura explained the need for Pali learning by giving detailed notes of its grammar. Dr. Bachchan Kumar from south east-Asia wing of IGNCA delivered the vote of thanks. He said that this conference a brain-child of Prof. Rao was organized in a wonderful manner.

The conference was graced by renowned professors of Pali from all corners of India. Several dignitaries were present on the occasion among the audiences. Papers on themes varying from Dimensions in Pali language, Ethics in Pali Literature, Historical and Cultural perspectives of Pali Literature, Pali Literature and Social issues were presented in 17 sessions as a result of which an influential platform for discussion evolved and it is noteworthy that the scholars from different corners of the Nation presented their papers on several key issues of Pali.

CSSP Launches Open Access Audio Archive of Distinguished Lectures

The Centre for Studies in Science Policy (CSSP) of SSS, JNU is pleased to announce the launching of web-based open access audio archive of distinguished lectures. This audio channel has included audio recordings of special lectures and interactive sessions by distinguished personalities, academics and thinkers. The collection in this audio channel will grow in the coming months and will include recorded lectures in interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research areas, and more

Valedictory session

The valedictory session was chaired by Prof. Lokesh Chandra, former Member of Parliament and renowned scholar in Buddhism. Prof. Ramesh Kumar Pandey, V. C. of Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetham, Prof. N. H. Samthani and Special guest Mrs. Veena Joshi, Joint Secretary, IGNCA were also present. Scholars congratulated the participants on the success of the event. Prof. C. Upender Rao expressed his optimism over the bright future of Pali studies in India.

A Pali movie screening on "Sharira dhatu vibhajanam" acted by Prof. C. Upender Rao was also held in the cultural programme. Dance performances by Ms. Shipra Singh, Ms. Dipika, Ms. Sukanya and Mr. Partha Sarthi Sil made the occasion more graceful. Mantra and Stotra recitals by Rev. Panya Deepa, Rev. Chandrakirti, Ms. Niharika, Mr. Jatin, Ms. Yashoda, Mr. Deepro Chakraborty, Ms. Aparna Choudhary and Ms. Shipra Singh added a special charm to the event. Mr. V. S. Shukla from IGNCA delivered a delightful vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude to JNU for organizing such a wonderful conference.

Plenary session

Following the proposal of Prof. Sanghasen Singh, the plenary session of the conference unanimously passed a resolution against the removal of Pali subject from UPSC mains. Prof. Rao said that any problem with the Pali syllabus could be sorted out, but the removal of the subject in totality was not acceptable. All delegates unanimously accepted the proposal and applauded the move. A decision has been taken to convey the resolution of the conference to the authorities in UPSC and other relevant departments in Govt. The conference concluded with the distribution of certificates.

Annu Sharma and Shagun Sinha
Research Scholar
Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies

particularly in the areas of science, technology and innovation (STS) studies. This open access audio channel is available at http://www.mixcloud.com/cssp_jnu/.

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

Fifth Prof. PN Srivastava Endowment Lecture on “Brains, Drains and Gains”

The Special Centre for Molecular Medicine (SCMM), JNU organized the Fifth Professor P.N. Srivastava Endowment Lecture on 4 April, 2014 at the JNU Convention Centre. The Lecture titled “Brains, Drains and Gains: Why the Successful Reinvention of Life Sciences Research in India Is Possible” was delivered by Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan. This lecture is organized annually by the university to pay tribute to Dr. P. N. Srivastava, former Prof. of JNU and renowned social scientist. Prof. S. K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor of JNU, in his welcome address welcomed Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan. Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector then formally introduced the speaker.

Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan is the Secretary in the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India and, and former Director of the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the United Kingdom and recipient of the prestigious Infosys Prize in 2009 and Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in 1998. He was conferred the honour of the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2013.

Prof. Raghavan started his lecture by introducing his experience with Indian institutions forging international collaborations and linkages for capability enhancement of Indian scientists. In many national laboratories, infrastructure comparable to those in western countries has been developed, particularly when it comes to collaboration with global science programmes. In his lecture, he narrated concepts of nature engineering. He opined “all life on earth is threaded together by common origins”, namely, nucleic acids (DNA and RNA), shared cellular chemistry, cellular compartmentation and multicellularity. In this connection, he narrated Darwin's observations on finches, where beak size and shape (morphology) relate to the feeding habits of Darwin's finches. The speaker also wondered about nature's inordinate fondness for beetles, following their diversity in shape and size.



In this lecture, he mentioned how life scientists in Indian institutions are working in collaboration in thematic areas of nutrition, sanitation and foetal development. They primarily aim at identifying a sanitation value chain, focusing on the reinvention of a toilet programme for the masses. This toilet programme will bring practical solutions, which will be safe, affordable, appealing, user-centred and sustainable. He also analysed the need to move sanitation products and services to a higher scale for large and diversified populations. He concluded his lecture by emphasizing that life scientists should “grasp opportunities, be sceptical and self-critical, shun hubris, and collaborate with social scientists”.

After his lecture, he interacted with JNU scholars in Q&A session. Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice-Chancellor of JNU, chaired this lecture session. The lecture concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. C.K. Mukhopadhyay of SCMM. The audio recording of this lecture is now available at www.mixcloud.com/cssp_jnu/, an open access audio channel maintained by the Centre for Studies in Science Policy (CSSP), JNU.

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

तुलनात्मक अध्ययन के बगैर भारतीय साहित्य की कल्पना अधूरी

दिनांक 16-04-2014 को ज.ने.वि के भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र 'छात्र संकाय समिति' के द्वारा “भारतीय भाषा और साहित्य के बीच तुलनात्मक अध्ययन की आवश्यकता” पर विचार गोष्ठी आयोजित किया गया। इस विचार गोष्ठी में भाग लेने वाले वक्ताओं में जाने-माने कवि-आलोचक अशोक वाजपेयी तथा

ज.ने.वि के अध्यापकों में डॉ देवेन्द्र चौबे, शफी आयूब, अखलाक आहान, गंगा सहाय मीणा तथा मनजीत बरुवा थे।

अशोक वाजपेयी ने तुलनात्मक अध्ययन की आवश्यकता पर जोर देते हुए कहा कि तुलनात्मक साहित्य का उद्देश्य समानता

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के साथ-साथ भिन्नता का भी ध्यान रखना। यदि साहित्य में एकता पर केवल जोड़ दिया गया तो प्रतिवाद के रूप में भिन्नता का भी स्वर उभरेगा या अनेकता पर जोड़ दिया गया तो एकता का स्वर। इसलिए तुलनात्मक साहित्य में एकता और अनेकता दोनों को समान रूप से स्थान मिलना चाहिए। तुलनात्मक साहित्य के अध्ययन की जरूरत पर डॉ देवेन्द्र चौबे ने कहा कि भक्ति काल में एक ही समय हिन्दी में कबीर, सूर, तुलसी, असमिया में शंकरदेव, कश्मीरी में ललदेव, मलयालम में बेम्मना तथा कन्नड़ में वासव जैसे कवियों ने अपनी-अपनी रचनाओं में समाज के विभिन्न समस्याओं को उठाया था। समाज विज्ञान के अध्यापक डॉ मनजीत बरुवा ने प्रगतिशील लेखक संघ के हवाले से कहा कि असम के विष्णु प्रसाद रभा ने अपनी रचनाओं में अपने क्षेत्र की समस्याओं के साथ-साथ पूरे भारतवर्ष की समस्याओं को स्थान दिया। डॉ अखलाक आहान ने फारसी भाषा को भारतीय भाषाओं का अभिन्न अंग माना तथा

मध्यकालीन साहित्य पर फारसी भाषा और साहित्य के प्रभाव से हमें अवगत कराया। डॉ शफी आयूब ने कहा कि वर्तमान समय में विशेष अध्ययन का प्रचलन चला है जबकि एक व्यक्ति कम से कम तीन भाषाएँ आसानी से सीख सकता है। अतः छात्रों को अपनी भाषा साहित्य के साथ अन्य भाषा साहित्य का तुलनात्मक अध्ययन भी करना चाहिए। विचार गोष्ठी की संकल्पना का परिचय देते हुए डॉ गंगा सहाय मीणा ने कहा कि तुलनात्मक साहित्य जैसे महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर यह विचार गोष्ठी एक महत्वपूर्ण शुरुआत है। इस प्रकार के अकादमिक कार्यक्रमों को विश्वविद्यालयों में बढ़ावा मिलना चाहिए। विचार गोष्ठी का संयोजन तथा संचालन छात्र संकाय समिति के सदस्य मो. जाहिदुल दीवान ने किया तथा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन पंकज श्रीवास्तव ने किया।

नीलमणी भारती, शोध छात्र,
भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र, जनेवि

Lecture on “Digital Preservation and access to Manuscript Heritage of India”

An insightful and scholarly lecture entitled “Digital Preservation and Access to Manuscript Heritage of India: A Case Study of IGNCA, New Delhi” was delivered by Dr. Ramesh C Gaur, University Librarian, Jawaharlal Nehru University on 15 April, 2014 in the premises of the Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, JNU under the supervision of program coordinator Dr. Sudhir Kumar Arya, Associate Professor, SCSS.

The program started with a welcome address and chaired by Prof. Shashi Prabha Kumar, Chairperson SCSS. The focus was on the Digital preservation and access to various manuscripts available all over India as well as in other foreign nations. Inclusive information about Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), its various divisions, its genesis constituted the preliminary part of the lecture.

A meticulous discussion was made on the initiatives taken by the IGNCA for the digitalization of Manuscripts, mainly the ones in Sanskrit under the National Manuscript Mission launched in February 2003 by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India with IGNCA as the National Nodal Agency. The objectives was to locate, catalogue, document and digitize the manuscripts, preserve and conserve them, promote ready access to those manuscripts in print and electronic form, promote research and scholarship with the assistance of the Manuscript resource centres and the Manuscript conservation centres.



Dr. Gaur mentioned that the National Survey of Manuscripts estimated about 65 lakhs Manuscripts in India. By the initiative of National Manuscript Mission (NMM) more than 30 lakh Manuscripts have been documented and about 18 Lakh manuscripts have been made available with details of repository to users for their reference on the NMM official website- www.namami.org.

In the concluding part of the lecture Dr. Ramesh C Gaur illustrated the various aspects, standards, methodology, future perspectives and reasons for the digitization of Manuscripts and effectively explained how one can access the microfilm/microfiche collection at the IGNCA and obtain the copy of manuscript with the permission of the concerned library from IGNCA Collection. Copies are being made available

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in Digital/ Microfilm / Print formats on minimum charges and consultation of all manuscripts available at the IGNC Reference Library is free for all.

The lecture motivated the students to do research work on manuscripts available in innovative areas like- Architecture,

Astronomy, Medical Science, Astrology etc. At the end of the program Prof. Shashi Prabha Kumar delivered the vote of thanks. Thus the event was very successful.

**Annu Kumari, Research Scholar,
Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies**

Naming the JNU SES Seminar Hall as Amrita Devi Bishnoi Hall, 22 April, 2014

School of Environmental Sciences (SES), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi celebrated the International Earth Day on 22 April, 2014 by dedicating the existing seminar room to Amrita Devi Bishnoi of the famed Bishnoi community from Rajasthan and naming it after her.

The event celebrated in the premises of the School began with the plantation of Khejri saplings, considered sacred in the Bishnoi community, in the SES Eco Garden by the Vice Chancellor Prof. S. K. Sopory, Rector Prof. Sudha Pai, Dean SES Prof A. K. Attri and the chief guest for the event Mr. Khamu Ram Bishnoi, accompanied by the faculty members, enthusiastic students and staff holding placards with slogans in their hands and enthusiasm in their hearts. This was followed by the ceremonious ribbon cutting and plaque unveiling ceremonies by the Vice Chancellor as a mark of respect to Amrita Devi Bishnoi. A historical figure not only among the Bishnois but also among many others inspired by her eco-conservation. She is known to have started the long legacy of Bishnoi communities sacrifices to save the planet. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor said that such events not only raise awareness among our young students but also ignite the spark needed to fight for the safety of our planet, particularly at time when our planet needs us the most. He added that since the theme of the 'Earth Day 2014' is Green cities, safeguarding our environment should not be limited to just planting trees but should also

include efforts to keep our cities clean and alive. The Rector further emphasized the need to understand and associate ourselves with the cultural and ecological philosophies of our enriched biodiversity and the role of women in helming environmental awareness in different sections of our society. The Dean of SES apprised the audience with the botanical and medicinal importance of the flora that the Bishnoi community have been constantly protecting and conserving selflessly. The event was fuelled with much inspiration when the invited speaker of the day, Mr. Khamu Ram Bishnoi, an active environmentalist from the Bishnoi community in Jodhpur, Rajasthan and a simple man with a strong will, spoke against the undue advantage that we have been constantly deriving from nature without paying back anything in return. He recounted inspiring tales to show his undying zeal for the environment and explained the ways in which his community has been involved in conservation, inspite of severe criticism from others. Hence there is a great need to address such issues at the grass root level. He urged the, students to not only come out of their comfort zone but to also have a perspective beyond the walls of the conference room.

Towards the end of the event, an SES student Miss Madhavi Jain presented her hand-made oil-on-canvas painting, depicting the supreme sacrifice of Amrita Devi Bishnoi. The chief guest Mr. Bishnoi was duly felicitated with a JNU souvenir and a shawl by the Vice Chancellor. As a mark of good will, Mr. Bishnoi gifted a memorandum to the School containing the 29 principles that need to be adhered to be a Bishnoi. Finally, a vote of thanks by the convenor of the seminar committee, Dr. Meenakshi Dua was proposed, with the hope that the legacy left behind by Amrita Devi Bishnoi shall be a constant source of inspiration for years to come for those committed to the cause of environmental protection.

**Meenakshi Dua, Assistant Professor,
School of Environmental Sciences**



Summary of Discussion on 'Nehru's Legacy after Fifty years'

To mark 50 years of the passing away of Jawaharlal Nehru, JNU Teachers Association organized a panel discussion on 27 May, 2014. It was chaired by Prof Sudha Pai, Rector, JNU and attended by about 100 academics, activists and students even though it was vacation time. Prof Arun Kumar, JNUTA President opened the proceedings arguing that this day had enormous symbolic significance since a new government under PM Modi was taking office and the Congress party which Nehru nurtured was at its lowest ebb. He argued that while Nehru set the framework for the building of a modern India during his lifetime, there was also a need to objectively assess his contributions since there was a growing body of people who blamed him for all the ills that afflict society. The truth lay somewhere in between. There were eight speakers who brought out the multi dimensionality of Nehru and how his vision went way beyond his time.

Sudha Pai questioned whether the Nehruvian project was a socialist one and whether it was based on borrowed ideas. She praised his leadership, the quest for scientific temper and his contribution to nation building but also wondered how the younger generation evaluated him. Sucheta Mahajan, a renowned historian who has worked on Nehru and the Indian National Congress pointed out that he was a great democrat and that his legacy continued to be with us. He saw the dangers of communalism for the budding country and did everything to check it. He followed Gandhi in this and was opposed to a Hindu state as well as a separate electorate and reservations for the minorities. He was a popular leader and a great orator and during the 1933 elections even though he was opposed to these ideas he travelled 80,000 km.

Om Thanvi, Editor, Jansatta, talked about Nehru's command over not only English but also Hindi. He pointed out that Nehru tried hard to resolve the vexed issue of national and official languages. There was a pluralistic approach and an attempt to promote language, literature and culture by setting up various institutions like the, Sahitya Academy. He was personally involved and knew the great writers and poets of his time like, Nirala and Mahadevi Verma. This was unlike the later Prime Ministers who had little feel for what was happening except in the film and entertainment world.

Muchkund Dube, the former Foreign Secretary, argued that the foreign policy framework had been largely inherited from Nehru. His foreign policy was based not only on the national interest but on the larger interest of humanity and he focussed on multilateral diplomacy. He was opposed to the capitalist world order which was unequal, exploitative and promoted hatred. He proposed a Federation of nations in the 1920s, much before the UN came into being. Again in 1948 he talked about a World Government. He saw the problems associated with the Cold War and the arms race. He was against nuclear testing and believed in Gandhi's idea of non-violence. Mr. Dube argued that we should not give up these ideas in spite of the world moving in the opposite direction.

T. K. Oommen, the renowned sociologist, argued that social transformation was difficult but Nehru attempted to bring in social transformation based on his idea of India as a diverse entity with unity in diversity. Both Hind Swaraj and Discovery of India pointed to the diversity of India and argued for its preservation. India is the only country with 22 official languages. Nehru was against the idea of one nation, one people and one culture which tends to exclude and homogenises. It was argued that the 2014 elections have weakened Nehru's Idea of India. He pointed to the different voting pattern in the North and West of India compared to the East and the South and how hindutava had been successfully propagated in the former areas which had an Indo-Aryan base.

Nitin Desai, former bureaucrat in the Government of India and the UN, discussed the difficulties of the 1950s when the nation was in its infancy and had to be stitched together. He argued that the heavy industry strategy was a way of achieving that by promoting inter connectedness in the nation. Further, independence had to be articulated in the real sense through following an independent policy in all matters like, foreign and economic policy and education and S&T. He argued that in the context of the 1950s what Nehru did was the best that was possible. He pointed out that the rate of economic growth during 1947 to 1950 was similar to that in other countries and diverged only later. Further, the later faster growth in India was based on the structures set up during Nehru's times.

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Nehru not only promoted major new institutions but also propagated rationality as opposed to religiosity.

N Panchapakshan, retired Professor of Physics, pointed to Nehru as a complete man who was equally comfortable in the world of politics, literature and science. He had close links with Indian scientists of his time like, M. N. Saha, Kothari, Bhatnagar and Bhabha. He was concerned at the lack of talent in the Universities. He promoted the setting up of the various research laboratories and India's entry into frontier technologies like, nuclear and space. He made possible the green revolution. For him scientific temper was behavioural since it was linked to how things are done and why we should rise above superstition. He understood the limitations of science since it does not encompass the entire life.

R. S. Ghuman retired Prof. of economics from Punjabi University, Patiala, contextualized Nehru's policies and thought. He argued that colonization had left India as a backward and poor country which had to be rapidly developed

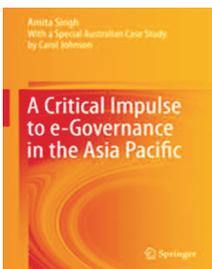
and that is what Nehru tried. Keynesian policies were then in vogue and public sector was given a prominent role since the markets would not have delivered to the poor. He pointed to the Bombay Plan of 1944 where the industrialists themselves agreed to the creation of a large public sector. He argued that the Nehruvian economic policies were consensual.

This was followed by a few questions relating to why things did not work out and why Nehru was blamed by some. It was suggested that this was because of the lack of understanding of the context of post-independence India and the taking of a limited view of Nehru's actions and policies; he had to be seen in more holistic terms. Most suggested that the discussion was timely.

The Panel discussion ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair, speakers and the audience.

**Arun Kumar, President,
JNU Teachers' Association**

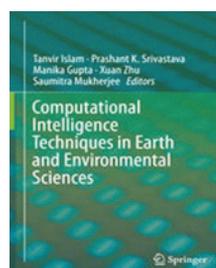
Our Publications



“A Critical Impulse to e-Governance in the Asia Pacific”, edited by Prof. Amita Singh, Special Centre for the Study of Law and Governance with a Special Australian Case Study by Carol Johnson, published by Springer, New Delhi. ISBN No: 978-81-322-1631-5.



“Management of Water, Energy and Bio-resources in the Era of Climate Change: Emerging Issues and Challenges”, edited by Dr. N. Janardhana Raju, School of Environmental Sciences, Wolfgang Gossei, Prof. A. L. Ramanathan, School of Environmental Sciences, & Prof. M. Sudhakar, published by Capital publishing company.



“Computational Intelligence Techniques in Earth and Environmental Sciences”, edited by Tanvir Islam, Prashant K. Srivastava, Manika Gupta, Xuan Zhu and Dr. Saumitra Mukherjee, School of Environmental Sciences, published by Springer, New Delhi. ISBN No: 978-94-017-8641-6

Alumni Corner

An interview with Dr. Sandeep Mahapatra, Advocate



Mansi: How and when did your association with JNU begin? What was your first impression of JNU?

Dr. Mahapatra: I joined JNU for the MA (International Relations) program in 1999. Being from a small town in Odisha it was an experience of its kind to be part of JNU. Stepping into a world class university, the first impression was that of having achieved something worth cherishing for life.

Mansi: How would you describe your years at JNU? How would you say JNU is different from other institutions?

Dr. Mahapatra: I spent close to 6 years in JNU during which time I evolved as a person, started to understand various nuances of academics, politics and life. All in all it was an enriching experience that serves me till date. Even today, the alumnus tag of JNU helps in connecting with former JNUites as also with people across varied spectrum. JNU is different as it provides you with opportunities, which may or may not be there elsewhere. My transition from a science background to that of humanities was possible only in a place like JNU. Also it helps you to interact with students and teachers not only from all parts of India but across the globe and immensely adds to one's learning process. JNU helps you shape your thought process, be it in academics or politics and teaching here is not a one way process of monologue from the teacher but interactive, and thus fuels your imagination.

Mansi: You were the only ABVP JNUSU president in campus. And then you turned to law, how did that happen?

Dr. Mahapatra: Post my JNUSU term, I wanted to do something meaningful as a professional, being from a family of lawyers law was the natural choice also the profession gives enough opportunity to keep up with your political pursuit.

Mansi: What have been some of the highs and lows of being a lawyer? Has JNU had any effect on your attitude to your profession?

Dr. Mahapatra: One of the highs of being a lawyer is that when one is able to persuade the Court on a tricky legal issue and get a favourable order for the client. The lows include delay in dispensation of cases. JNU has definitely given me an edge in the profession by helping me analyse cases from a different perspective rather than the usual method.

Mansi: Any memory of JNU that you would like to share with us?

Dr. Mahapatra: There are so many, but one particular memory that still remains fresh is of a very close friend from a different political affiliation who before the voting day told me "look I don't support your ideology but nevertheless I will vote for you". We are still good friends and neither he nor me have ever tried to convert each other.

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

Dr. Mahapatra: All I would say is that being a student of JNU makes you one among a select few who get this opportunity. So maximise this in whatever course you are enrolled into.

OBITUARY

Shri Vinod Kumar, Safaikaramchari passed away on Wednesday, 16 April, 2014

Shri Mohd. Idrish, Mess Helper, Passed Away on Sunday, 4 May, 2014

We extend our condolences to the bereaved families.

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

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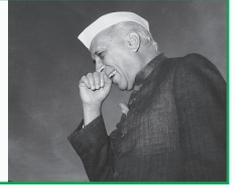
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1. विश्वविद्यालय में नए भर्ती हुए वरिष्ठ सहायकों/सहायकों/निजी सहायकों/स्टेनोग्राफरों और कनिष्ठ सहायक व टाइपिस्ट के लिए 01 मई 2014 को प्रशासन भवन के द्वितीय तल पर समिति कक्ष संख्या 225 में हिंदी कार्यशाला आयोजित की गयी। फोटो में: डॉ. संदीप कुमार चैटर्जी, कुलसचिव एवं अन्य अधिकारी।
2. Linguistic Empowerment Cell organised EAW intensive Summer Programme "Synopsis to thesis writing", on 1 – 10 May, 2014. Photo Shows: Prof. Vaishna Narang, Chief Coordinator, Linguistic Empowerment Cell, Prof. S. K. Sopory, Vice-Chancellor, JNU with faculty and students.
3. School of Life Sciences, organized a farewell function for the outgoing M. Sc. IV Semester Students on 9 May, 2014. Photo shows: Prof. B. N. Mallick, Dean, School of Life Sciences with faculty and students.
4. Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association organized a national seminar on "Higher Education in India: Critical Issues & Challenges" on 10 May, 2014. Photo shows: Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Arun Kumar, Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Emeritus Professor, Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, and Prof. Anil Sadgopal, Retired Professor, Delhi University.
5. Mr. Terence Sweeney, CEO- Epigeum, London U.K. visited JNU and met with Vice-Chancellor, Rector and Chief Advisor, International Collaboration, on 23 May, 2014. Photo shows: Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector, Prof. S. K. Sopory, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Varun Sahni, Chief Advisor (IC), Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Director, CIS, Dr. Andrew M. Lynn, with Mr. Terence Sweeney, CEO- Epigeum.
6. A delegation from the Phetchaburi Rajabhat University Muang, Phetchaburi, Thailand visited JNU on 4 June, 2014 to explore the possibility of future international collaboration to enhance the academic and research skill of the faculty and research scholars. Photo shows: Prof. Varun Sahni, Chief Advisor, International Collaboration, Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector with members of delegation.



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



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7. JNU Eco-Club organized a Tree plantation drive with the help of an NGO “Greenvein” at Chandrabhaga Hostel on the occasion of “World Environment Day” on 5 June, 2014.
8. The School of Arts & Aesthetics Library was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor, on 9 June, 2014. Photo shows: Prof. S. K. Sopory, Vice-Chancellor, JNU inaugurating the function along with Prof. Prasenjit Sen (Rector-II) and Prof. Ira Bhaskar, Dean, School of Arts and Aesthetics.
9. The Office of the Labour Welfare Officer organized an E-passbook/EPF Camp on 12-13 June, 2014 at the Committee Room of the School of Social Sciences.
10. A function was organized to distribute certificates to the speakers of JNU forum for mutual learning on 13 June, 2014. Photo shows: (in the center) Prof. S. K. Sopory, Vice-Chancellor and Dr. R. C. Gaur, Librarian, along with the Speakers of JNU form for mutual learning.



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