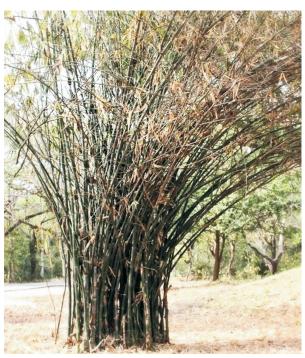


A University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the adventure of ideas and for the search of truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards ever higher objectives. If the Universities discharge their duties adequately, then it is well with the Nation and the People.

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 consitituents 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. Anjan Mukherji, Emeritus Professor, Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, School of Social Sciences



Mansi: How and when did your journey with JNU begin? How has your experience been here over these years?

**Prof.** Mukherji: I joined the University in 1973; on 16 April if memory serves me right. I remember I

had applied for the job while I was abroad in the US and received a telegram that I had been selected. The telegram was delivered to another Mukherji in the Physics department (he too was A Mukherji) but since he was far away from completing his degree, he realized that the telegram was for me. The telegram did not mention Economics (CESP had still not been formed.). And so I arrived in JNU. I have not regretted this decision.

The experience has been rewarding although the lack of support to research activities in social sciences, for most of my career, has been the most frustrating part of my experience. In this aspect, matters changed only around 2010 when I retired. At least now things appear to have changed. What did the University actually provide me with: we got the opportunity to build a programme up from scratch and that has been an opportunity which very few get. The University was fortunate in that students from all over India came at least in the initial phases, although later they were mainly from the metropolitan cities. But whatever there was good and great about the University was purely by accident; there was no great plan on the part of the University to build a great centre of learning. Whatever happened or whatever heights were reached were because accidentally some people got together, I am now convinced about that.

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

**Prof. Mukherji:** In some essential ways JNU has not changed at all: there appears to be still a directionless meandering hoping that some good people will come together: there is no active involvement in procuring them. The problem is that the definition of 'good' appears to have changed. But in some ways things have changed in that faculty members and students are provided with better facilities. Classrooms and lecture-halls look snazzy, there is internet everywhere with

access to JSTOR and Science-Direct, but the toilets still stink.

In fact while I was in the University, I used to come in early and stay the whole day but used to go home for lunch- since I stayed in the Campus- this also was necessary to use the toilet at home rather than risk the vagaries of the situation in the school buildings. Except when I was Dean, the situation remained the same. Maybe just as I was told early on, that faculty and students are not entitled to certain things, but senior functionaries are. Clean loos and filing cabinets apparently belonged to this list. Cooling and heating was another. My room in CESP was on the third floor of SSS II and during the summer once, when I was Dean, I had to hold a meeting with senior people in the Administration; I decided to hold the meeting in the CESP room since I used to spend a part of the time each day upstairs; there were no coolers and all of them were made to sweat out and face what it was like in June on the top floor. But that had maybe some effect with coolers being sanctioned later on. On the CESP floor we were one cooler short and the Dean's office wanted to assure a cooler in my office in the CESP and I had to tell them that my room upstairs should be the one without the cooler.

So I do not see much change in a real sense. I am told that with an increase in the student size, retiring faculty not being replaced in a timely manner, facilities are under some pressure. In any case there is a real problem which people do not seem to appreciate: good faculty does not grow, low hanging, on trees, to be easily plucked off. These are an endangered species and need to be carefully nurtured. Clearly this is not appreciated at all. I had expected the JNU to take a leadership role in changing the University system but while the JNU had a premier position earlier, this position appears to have been surrendered.

Mansi: You have witnessed university systems at different places within India and abroad. How do you think JNU is different from these places?

**Prof. Mukherji:** I was once so frustrated with the situation in JNU towards the later part of my years at JNU that I actually went around spending time in different Universities, two or three days at a time. Unfortunately I realized that JNU with all its warts, was still the best place among Indian Universities. At the same time, almost any Institution abroad would provide a better environment. I remember once I was in Japan and I was

#### In Conversation with....

told that they were sorry that I would be disturbed by the construction activity: all required to admit the needs of a physically handicapped student who was to be admitted later. Imagine a physically handicapped person on a wheelchair trying to come to the School of Social Science Building II. A professor from abroad wanted to meet some of us and we had to schedule the meeting in the administrative block since he was on a wheelchair! As I said we have not managed to think ahead. Even very recently, I was chairing a lecture in the socalled Convention Centre, the pride of JNU and there was no microphone which could be hung close to the speaker's mouth, a standard feature everywhere. The speaker suffered from a low voice and the table microphones were inadequate.

I think the purpose of a University is to be a centre of excellence; maybe in the various brochures, JNU also says this somewhere but being part of a whole University system it is subjected to various measures which appear to be counterproductive. Let me give an example; in the early years, we used to admit students on the basis of an interview; these interviews were really good because we could gauge the students aptitude based on what the student had been exposed to. The system changed in mid 1980's. The three best students I taught during 1973-2010 were all admitted during the previous system and I am reasonably sure that two of them would not have made it under the current system. We have moved into a system which is perhaps easier to administer given the great demand for JNU seats but surely quality is bound to suffer. Of course there are still outstanding students; these are the random things, not anything which the University either strives for or encourages.

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

**Prof. Mukherji:** Being a Professor Emeritus is a privilege and honour certainly; but look at what this great distinction actually confers: an ID card which says Permanent on the top and is valid for five years (presumably because we are not expected to live longer?), a right to perambulate the corridors and look into some one's office if that person is not too embarrassed to be caught lurking there. And a right to supervise students while perambulating corridors. Apart from the last, the only other difference that I can see is that on other retired professors' ID it says RETIRED on the top instead of Permanent. Is retirement not Permanent? I am told that JNU is not to be blamed but it is the School or Centre's responsibility as if the School or the Centre can conjure up facilities. Of course, JNU is not especially to blame in this respect. Recently,

the ICSSR while conferring its presumably prized Jawaharlal Nehru National Fellowship, mentioned that the stipend was Rs. 25000 per month and one could not have any other employment during the tenure basically converting the terms and conditions of the entire award to a post-doctoral fellowship. There is a lack of parity between what the system says and what it does and no, it is not only the money involved. On Googling "Professor Emeritus" one finds the rather rude explanation: "Dude, you are retired". Maybe that's the reality and to expect anything else is foolhardy.

I would like to hope that one day maybe this dichotomy between what the University does and what it says or implies, would end. I have also witnessed a lack of appreciation of scholarship: it has become so bad that routinely when I have praised some person, I have been asked, do I know the person concerned? On saying that I do not, but have looked at the person's work, I am generally treated with great disbelief. It is expected that one praises only those who are one's friends or students or share the same school of thought. This is a very serious problem in academia and I do hope the School and the University does not succumb and fall into such a hole.

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

**Prof. Mukherji:** There were two aspects of being a faculty in JNU which were quite unique. The first was being in a special position to see the growth and development of shy students from various corners of India flowering into scholars of repute. I would say in my opening lecture to MA students that I shall feel really happy when I am able to teach future classes from the work done by students in this class. Fortunately in one or two cases this did happen.

The other attractive part of being in JNU was the campus and the walk in the evening up to the JNU Eastern gate and back: it is really great to find such a place within the city. I hope it is preserved and maintained. And of course raising a child on the campus was so much easier than elsewhere. I learn with great regret that the dogs have taken over the campus.

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

**Prof. Mukherji:** I think it would be presumptuous on my part do so. But my suggestion, rather than a message: Carefully analyze any argument presented; question everything you read.

## **Movements & Appointments**

### New Appointments/ Deans/ Directors/ Chairpersons

- Prof. Rajendra K. Jain, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies as Director in Europe Area Studies Programme, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, for a period of two years.
- Prof. Bhagwan Singh Josh, Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences as Director in Group of Adult Education, School of Social Sciences.
- Prof. C.P. Chandrasekhar, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences as Chair Professor in Reserve Bank of India Chair, for a period of two years.
- Prof. Shankari Sundararaman as Chairperson, Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, for a period of two years.
- Prof. Kamal Mitra Chenoy as Chairperson, Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, School of International Studies.
- Prof. Mujeebur Rahman as Chairperson, Centre of Arabic and African Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, for a period of two years.
- Prof. C. Upender Rao as Chairperson, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, for a period of two years.
- Dr. Anirban Chakraborti as Professor in the School of Computational and Integrative Sciences.
- Dr. Gobardhan Das as Professor in the Special Centre for Molecular Medicine.
- Dr. Surajit Mazumdar as Professor in the Centre for Economics Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences.
- Dr. Soumyabrata Choudhury as Associate Professor in Theatre and Performance Studies in the School of Arts and Aesthetics.
- Dr. Sudhir Kumar as Associate Professor in the Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies.
- Dr. Narender Kumar as Associate Professor in the Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- Dr. Rashmi Sawhney as Associate Professor in the School of Arts and Aesthetics.
- Dr. Sujith Kumar Parayil as Assistant Professor in the Centre for Social Medicine & Community Health, School of Social Sciences.

#### Administration

- Shri Narender Chauhan as Section Officer in the Evaluation Branch-II.
- Shri. G. Veerabahu, Section Officer as Administrative Officer in National University of Educational Planning and Administration.

- Shri Dheeraj Kumar as Personal Assistant in Office of the Vice-Chancellor.
- ◆ Shri Vinay Kumar as Stenographer in the Gender Sensation Committee Against Sexual Harassment.
- Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra as Stenographer in the Centre for International Politics, Organisation & Disarmament, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Shri Sushil Yadav as Stenographer in the Hindi Unit.
- Shri Abhimanyu Kumar as Laboratory Attendant in the Language Lab Complex, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.
- Shri Ashish Kumar Srivastava as Laboratory Attendant in the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Tara Ram as Laboratory Attendant in the Special Centre for Molecular Medicines.
- ◆ Shri Vikash Kumar as Laboratory Attendant in the Language Lab Complex & Video Studio, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.
- Shri Rama Kant as Laboratory Attendant in the School of Environmental Sciences.
- Shri Puranmal Khatik as Laboratory Attendant in the School of Environmental Sciences.
- Shri Martand Pratap Singh as Laboratory Attendant in the School of Physical Sciences.

#### **Retirement & Resignation**

- Prof. Ganga Nath Jha, Centre for South Central Southeast Asian & Southwest Pacific Studies, School of International Studies.
- Prof. R.N. Menon, Centre for Russian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.
- Prof. S.Y. Shah, Group of Adult Education, School of Social Sciences.
- Shri Ashok Kumar, Assistant, School of International Studies.
- Shri Raghubir Singh, Semi Professional Assistant, Central Library.
- ◆ Shri Pancham Pal, Khalasi (Civil), Engineering Branch.
- Shri Dhoke Ram, Mess Helper, Sabarmati Hostel.
- Shri Dharam Singh, Sanitary Guide, Jhelum Hostel.
- ◆ Shri Rambir, Sanitary Guide, Sanitation Cell/Estate Branch.
- ◆ Shri Raj Singh, Sanitary Guide, Sanitation Cell/Estate Branch.
- Shri Ved Ram, Security Guard, Security Branch.
- Smt. Shakuntala Devi, Safaikaramchari, Sanitation Cell /Estate Branch.

#### **Voluntary Retirement**

Shri. Om Prakash, Daftary, Administration Branch-III & IV.

## **Movements & Appointments**

#### **Notification**

The Vice-Chancellor is pleased to re-constitute Security Advisory Committee (SAC) as under:

1. Prof. B.R. Deepak, CC&SEAS, SLL&CS : Chairman 2. Prof. Abhijit Karkun, CFFS/SLL&CS : Member

3. Dr. Milap Chand Sharma, CSRD/SSS : Member 4. Dr. Rohini Muthuswami, SLS : Member

5. Ms. Minakshi Buragohain, GSCASH : Member 6. Deputy Registrar (Admn.) : Member

7. Deputy Registrar (Estate) : Member 8. Deputy Registrar (IHA) : Member

9. Branch Head of Security Agency/Service Provider : Member 10. In-Charge, Engineering Branch : Member

11. Representative of JNUTA : Member 12. Representative of JNUOA : Member

13. Representative of JNUSU : Member 14. Representative of JNUSU : Member

15. Chief Security Officer : Member Secretary

The term of the Committee is for a period of two years. The Committee will look into the security related matters in the campus and advise the Vice-Chancellor.

#### "पूसा उद्यान शो 2014" में विश्वविद्यालय की उद्यान शाखा पुरस्कृत

जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय की उद्यान शाखा ने दिल्ली कृषि—उद्यान सोसायटी, भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान द्वारा दिल्ली में दिनांक 01—02 मार्च, 2014 को आयोजित **"पूसा उद्यान शो 2014"** में भाग लिया।

यह प्रतियोगिता दिल्ली और नई दिल्ली के सभी प्रदर्शकों (सरकारी अथवा गैर—सरकारी एजेंसी/संस्थानों/निजी संगठनों/राजदूतावासों/होटलों/क्लबों/पौधशालाओं/व्यक्तिगत (निजी) श्रेणियों) के लिए खुली थी। दिनांक 28.02.2014 को भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान पूसा, नई दिल्ली की निर्णायक समिति ने जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के विभिन्न बगीचों का भी निरीक्षण किया।

उपरोक्त पुष्प प्रदर्शनी में विश्वविद्यालय को निम्नलिखित 06 पुरस्कार प्रदान किए गए –

- मुरलीधर सोमन्ज चैलेंज कप कुलपित आवास के बगीचे को दिल्ली और नई दिल्ली में आबंटित सरकारी आवासों में सर्वश्रेष्ठ विस्तृत निजी बगीचा के लिए प्रदान किया गया।
- 2. डी.ए.एच.एस. चैलेंज कप कुलपति आवास के बगीचे को दिल्ली और नई दिल्ली में आबंटित सरकारी आवासों में **सर्वश्रेष्ठ मध्यम निजी बगीचा** के लिए प्रदान किया गया।
- 3. डी.ए.एच.एस. चैलेंज कप कुलपति आवास के बगीचे को दिल्ली और नई दिल्ली में आबंटित सरकारी आवासों में सर्वश्रेष्ठ लघु निजी बगीचा के लिए प्रदान किया गया।
- 4. नवाब शाह आलम चैलेंज कप विभिन्न प्रकार के गमलों की व्यक्तिगत श्रेणियों में **पूर्णयोग** के लिए प्रदान किया गया।
- 5. डॉ. पंजाबराय देशमुख चैलेंज कप व्यक्तिगत श्रेणी में **सर्वश्रेष्ठ** एक—वर्षीय पुष्पीय गमलों के लिए प्रदान किया गया।
- 6. डी.ए.एच.एस. चैलेंज कप **सर्वश्रेष्ठ** सार्वजनिक प्राकृतिक दृश्य के नमूनों और विशेषताओं के लिए प्रदान किया गया।

विश्वविद्यालय उपरोक्त पुरस्कारों से गौरवान्वित हुआ है जो कि उद्यान शाखा / इंजीनियरी विभाग और सभी उद्यान कर्मियों (मालियों) के अथक प्रयासों से संभव हो सका है। विश्वविद्यालय के उच्च अधिकारियों के प्रोत्साहन और सार्थक योगदान के कारण ही उद्यान शाखा इन पुरस्कारों को पाने में सफल हो पाया है।

#### **Achievements/Awards**



◆ **Prof. Shashiprabha Kumar,** Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, was appointed a member of Second Sanskrit Commission vide resolution no. 1-20/2010-Skt.II (part) dated 6 March 2014 issued by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Language Division, Government of India.



Dr. Ramesh C Gaur, University Librarian, has been honoured with the Annual Award "Indian Library Leaders:
 Award for Professional Excellence-2013" by Satija Research Foundation for Library and Information Science,
 India.



Dr. Vijay Pal, Assistant Professor, School of Environmental Sciences, has been selected for prestigious INSA Medal for Young Scientists for the year 2014. The award will be conferred at the Anniversary Meet of the Academy in December 2014. Dr. Vijay Pal has been selected for this award by the Indian National Science Academy for his significant contribution by research carried out at JNU to our understanding of the molecular mechanism underlying retrotransposition in entamoeba histolytica.



Mr. Mohammad Ahmad, research scholar in the Centre of Arabic and African Studies has been honoured with 'INDGenius Uttishth Bharat Award' at SVYASA University, Bangalore in recognition of his academic contribution during the year 2013 by 'Param Veer Chakra' Awardee Capt. Bana Singh.



Prof. Pramod Talgeri, Retired Professor, Centre for German Studies, SLL&CS, Vice-Chancellor, Multiversity, Pune has been selected by the German Foreign Office and Max Mueller Bhawan (Goethe Institut) to receive the Merck-Tagore Award 2014.

#### JNU gets Rs 60 cr for research

UGC has granted JNU the status of University with Potential for Excellence (UPE) and has given it Rs 60 crore for focused research and infrastructure development.

A part of the fund is also to be utilized for infrastructure development including building of research laboratories, improving the instrumentation facilities, library upgradation, network connectivity, and outreach programmes. A part of the fund will also be used to fund participation by faculty and students in national and international conferences.

The UGC team of experts visited JNU earlier this year and studied its proposals.

# The Invisible Workers: Rights, Justice and Dignity for Domestic Workers The time to recognize domestic work as legitimate work is now

New Delhi, 1 March, 2014: Delivering the second United Nations Public Lecture, Dr. Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University called on India to ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention No. 189 that guarantees the fundamental rights of domestic workers to decent and secure work.

Delivering the Lecture on 'The Invisible Workers: Rights, Justice and Dignity for Domestic Workers', Dr. Ghosh said, "No society can survive without the massive contribution that domestic work makes to national income." Yet it remains largely invisible and undervalued, a reflection of the low value India places on social reproduction.

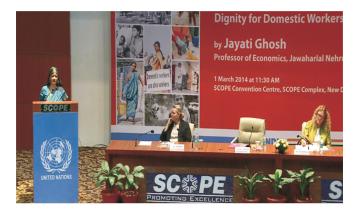
#### **Achievements/Awards**

Noting that domestic workers are amongst the most vulnerable of workers in India, Lise Grande, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative said, "All workers, including domestic workers have the right to fair working conditions."

NSSO data on employment and unemployment reveals that the number of domestic workers in urban areas increased by 68 percent in the decade between 1999-2000 and 2009-2010. Dr. Ghosh attributed the significant increase in domestic work in India to two factors. One, high rates of economic growth have not translated into an adequate increase in employment in the formal sector. Second, rising inequalities has meant on the one hand, an increase in self-employment with more and more people desperate to supplement incomes, and on the other, a rising middle class that can afford to hire domestic work. "Inequality in India permits lower wages for domestic work", she added.

Domestic work is emerging as a crucial livelihood option for millions of women in the country. While women's labour force participation in India is amongst the lowest in the world, the country has witnessed a 75 percent increase in women's domestic work. This has been accompanied by a significant increase in women migrant domestic workers who are particularly vulnerable.

In 2011, an overwhelming majority of 185 member states of the ILO voted in favour of adopting the Domestic Workers Convention No. 189 which according to Tine Staermose, Director, ILO Country Office for India and Decent Work Team



for South Asia, is a universal recognition on the need to protect the rights of domestic workers. "Current initiatives in India that include expanding access to health insurance, setting minimum wages for domestic work, and organizing domestic workers, are important steps towards ensuring decent working and living conditions for domestic workers."

The ratification of the ILO Convention in Dr. Ghosh's view would bring about a complete transformation in the lives of domestic workers and will ensure they have the same rights as those available to other workers: reasonable hours of work, weekly rest of at least 24 consecutive hours, a limit on in-kind payment, clear information on terms and conditions of employment, as well as respect for fundamental principles and rights at work including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. Implementing the Convention will require pressure from below, all workers need to work together to push for this transformation.

# **Campus Activities**

#### **Arabic Journal Released**

The Centre of Arabic and African Studies, SLL&CS has started publishing its annual peer reviewed Arabic Journal from 2014.



The journal was released in a function organized by the Centre on 5 March, 2014. The first copy was released by Dr. Abdul Aziz Lodhi, Professor Emeritus, Uppsala University, Sweden who was on a visit to JNU and met the Vice Chancellor. Dr Khaldoun Sied Sobh, our Visiting Faculty from Damascus University, received the first copy from Prof. Abdul Aziz Lodhi.Prof Lodhi also gave a special lecture on "Language Situation in East Africa" after the release of the journal. A large number of teachers and students attended the function at the School.

Basheer Ahmad, Professor Centre of Arabic and African Studies SLL&CS

#### JNU Philosophy Colloquium during the Monsoon Semester 2013

In the Centre of German Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, a JNU Philosophy Colloquium was initiated by Prof. Babu Thaliath during the Monsoon Semester 2013. The inaugural lecture of this colloquium was delivered by Prof. Dr. Sundar Sarukkai on 27 November, 2013. (Title of the Lecture: Language, Philosophy and Science; Venue: Conference Hall, School of Environmental Sciences, JNU) There were three further colloquia in Winter Semester 2014:

 A discussion on Ontology of the Social; Speakers: Prof. Dr. Sundar Sarukkai (Director, Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities, Manipal University), Prof. Gopal Guru (Centre for Political Studies, SSS, JNU) and Prof. Edward Rodrigues (Centre for the Study of Social Systems, SSS, JNU); Chair: Prof. Gurpreet Mahajan (Centre for Political

- Studies, SSS, JNU); Discussant: Prof. Babu Thaliath (Centre of German Studies, SLL & CS, JNU); Time and Date: 10 a.m., 15 February, 2014; Venue: 103, SSS-II, JNU.
- Lecture by Prof. Dr. Sanil V. (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Delhi) on Theory: Intelligibility and Intensity. Time and Date: 4.30 p. m., Tuesday, 11 March 2014; Venue: 212, SLL & CS, JNU.
- Lecture by Prof. G. S. Sahota (University of California, Santa Cruz) on The Absolute in Walter Benjamin: Language, Name, Translation. Date and Time: 4.00 p. m., Wednesday, 26 March, 2014; Venue 212, SLL & CS, JNU.

Babu Thaliath, Professor Centre of German Studies, SLL&CS

#### जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय में दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी आयोजित

जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र के तत्वावधान तथा डॉ० ओमप्रकाश सिंह के संयोजन में 6-7 मार्च, 2014 को दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी का आयोजन किया गया। यह संगोष्ठी हिन्दी की अन्य संगोष्ठियों से भिन्न तथा ऐतिहासिक थी जिसे संगोष्ठी में आये सभी विद्वानों ने रेखांकित किया। आज तक कभी संगोष्ठी के माध्यम से पाठ्यक्रम पर विचार नहीं किया गया था। इस संगोष्ठी का विषय था—"हिन्दी स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रमः पुनर्विचार की आवश्यकता" (दिल्ली के केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों के संदर्भ में)। संगोष्ठी का उदघाटन करते हुए प्रो० नामवर सिंह ने कहा कि जे० एन० यू० में रहते हुए मैंने एम० ए० का पाठयक्रम बनाया था, बाद में अन्य लोगों ने सहयोग दिया। आज फिर आपके आमंत्रण पर मैंने पूनः पाठ्यक्रम का एक ढाँचा तैयार किया है। उन्होंने पाठयक्रम में संशोधन को रेखांकित करते हुए एम० ए० के पाठ्यक्रम का प्रारूप आदिकाल से लेकर आधुनिक काल के कवियों, रचनाकारों और आलोचकों की प्रवृतिगत विशेषताओं के साथ-साथ भाषा विज्ञान, स्त्री विमर्श, दलित विमर्श और अन्तरभारतीय साहित्य को विशेष तौर पर लाग् करने पर जोर दिया। वहीं विशिष्ट अतिथि एंव कवि अशोक वाजपेयी ने यह चिंता व्यक्त की कि साहित्य के अधिकांश छात्र पढ़ाई खत्म करने के बाद पुनः साहित्य की तरफ वापस नहीं लौटते। उन्होंने पाठ्यक्रम पर विचार करते हुए कहा कि पाठयक्रम में आस्वाद एवं भौतिक जिज्ञासा का संगम होना चाहिए। हिन्दी पाठ्यक्रम में मुख्यधारा के साथ-साथ उन लोगों को भी पढाया जाना चाहिए जिन्होंने अच्छा लिखा है। पाठयक्रम की सार्थकता पर विचार करते हुए उन्होंने अध्यापक की भूमिका पर विशेष बल दिया। भाषा संस्थान के डीन प्रो० एम० असलम



इस्लाही ने पाठ्यक्रम के लिए विद्यार्थियों और शिक्षकों की स्वतंत्रता पर बल देते हुए कहा कि पाठ्यक्रम इन दोनों की रूचि के अनुरूप होना चाहिए। विषय प्रवर्तन करते हुए प्रो० रामबक्ष ने कहा कि यह संगोष्ठी हिन्दी के गैर—परम्परागत ढंग की संगोष्ठी है। आम तौर पर विमर्शों पर संगोष्ठी होती है, आज पहली बार पाठ्यक्रम पर राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी हो रही है। इस सत्र का संचालन तथा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन डॉ० ओमप्रकाश सिंह ने किया।

संगोष्ठी के प्रथम सत्र "हिन्दी स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रमः इतिहास और संभावना" का विषय प्रवर्तन डॉ० सुधीर प्रताप सिंह ने किया। मुख्य वक्ता इग्नू के प्रो० जबरीमल पारख ने अपने वक्तव्य में केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों के पाठ्यक्रम का तुलनात्मक अध्ययन प्रस्तुत करते हुए कहा कि साहित्य के प्रति अनुराग और पाठ्यक्रम के बीच विद्यार्थियों का सामंजस्य न बिठा पाना हिन्दी पाठ्यक्रम के लिए चुनौती है। इस पर आज पुनर्विचार की आवश्यकता है। सत्र की अध्यक्षता करते हुए प्रो० नामवर सिंह ने शिक्षण—कौशल

पर विचार किया तथा पाठ को सही ढंग से पढ़ने—पढ़ाने की वकालत की। उन्होंने जोर देते हुए कहा कि साहित्य की पढ़ाई पाठ केन्द्रित होनी चाहिए। आज साहित्य में विचार ज्यादा और पाठ कम होता जा रहा है। यह साहित्य के लिए चिंता का विषय है। रचना के भीतर से ही नये विचारों का प्रतिपादन होता है। इस सत्र का संचालन तथा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन डॉ० देवेन्द्र चौवे ने किया।

पहले दिन का दूसरे सत्र "आदिकाल और मध्यकाल के पाठ्यक्रम का स्वरूप और चुनौतियाँ" का विषय प्रवर्तन डॉ० विवेकानन्द उपाध्याय ने किया। डॉ० विभास वर्मा ने इस विषय पर सार्थक अभिभाषण देते हुए मुख्यतः आदिकाल और भिक्तकाल की भाषा और काल निर्धारण की समस्या पर प्रकाश डाला तथा यह प्रस्ताव रखा कि आदिकालीन साहित्य को हिन्दी साहित्य से निकालने की राजनीति चल रही है जो बहुत चिंताजनक है। उन्होंने भिक्तकाल के संदर्भ का विशेष हवाला देते हुए कहा कि किसी भी कालखण्ड के पाठ्यक्रम का निर्धारण करते हुए उसे एकेडिमक राजनीति से बचाए जाने की जरुरत है। निरपेक्षता भी कई बार गुणवत्ता को बचाने का कार्य करती है। प्रो० तुलसीराम ने मध्यकाल के पाठ्यक्रम पर विचार करते हुए मिथकों एवं धार्मिक ग्रंथों के माध्यम से साहित्य पढाया जाना दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण बताया। कहा कि हमारे देश में इतिहास मिथक पर आधारित है जिसका प्रभाव साहित्य पर भी दिखाई पडता है। यह मिथक खास तरह के ब्राह्मणवादी नजरिये से गढा गया है, इसका परीक्षण होना चाहिए। उन्होंने इस बात को भी रेखांकित किया कि भारत में विमर्श पाश्चात्य देशों की देन नहीं बल्कि भारतीय परम्परा में इसका अस्तित्व रहा है। सत्र की अध्यक्षता करते हुए प्रो० गोपेश्वर सिंह ने संगोष्ठी के विषय की प्रशंसा करते हुए कहा कि एकभाषी होने के कारण मध्यकाल से विद्यार्थियों का रागात्मक संबंध कम हो गया है। हमें विद्यार्थियों में रूचि पैदा करनी होगी। इसके लिए हमें विद्यार्थियों को बोलियों की संक्षिप्त जानकारी देनी होगी। प्रो० तुलसीराम द्वारा मिथकों पर उठाए गए प्रश्न पर बोलते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि साहित्य का काम बिना मिथकों के संभव नहीं है। उन्होंने जोर देकर यह बात उठाई की 60-70 साल से शुक्ल और द्विवेदी जी की इतिहास दृष्टि से निकलकर यह देखें कि इतिहास की नई-नई खिडकियाँ कौन-कौन हो सकती हैं। सत्र का संचालन और धन्यवाद ज्ञापन डॉ० राजेश पासवान ने किया।

संगोष्ठी के दूसरे दिन का तीसरा सत्र था—"आधुनिक काल का पाठ्यक्रम और नवीन सोच।" वक्ता थे—हिरमोहन शर्मा, हेमलता महीश्वर, स्मिता चतुर्वेदी, समीक्षा ठाकुर तथा अध्यक्ष थे प्रो० रमेश गौतम। इस सत्र का विषय प्रवर्तन डॉ० ज्ञानेन्द्र कुमार संतोष ने किया। हेमलता महीश्वर ने जहाँ समकालीन दृष्टि से आधुनिक काल के पाठ्यक्रम पर पुनर्विचार का प्रश्न उठाया वहीं स्मिता चतुर्वेदी ने अपने अध्यापकीय अनुभव के हवाले से यह कहा कि संचार और तकनीकी के विपुल संसाधनों के माध्यम से पाठ्यक्रम को रोचक तथा बहुआयामी बना सकते हैं। समीक्षा ठाकुर ने विमर्शों के दौर में पाठ के लुप्त हो जाने पर चिंता व्यक्त की।

हिरमोहन शर्मा ने इस बात पर चिंता जाहिर की कि हिन्दी का पाठ्यक्रम वैश्विक वाद—विवादों से कहीं अछूता तो नहीं है? आखिर क्या कारण है कि आधुनिक कविता धूमिल पर आकर ही खत्म हो जाती है। सत्र की अध्यक्षता करते हुए प्रो॰ रमेश गौतम ने कहा कि आधुनिक पाठ्यक्रमों को रोजगार परक बनाना चाहिए। हिन्दी केवल पढ़ने की वस्तु न रहे, रोजगार भी प्रदान करे। इस सत्र का संचालन तथा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन डॉ॰ विद्याशंकर सिंह ने किया।

संगोष्ठी का चौथा सत्र था—"साहित्य सिद्धांतः वर्तमान और भविष्य" बहसों से भरे इस सत्र का विषय प्रवर्तन डॉ० सत्यपाल शर्मा ने किया। डॉ॰ दुर्गाप्रसाद गुप्त ने कहा कि सिद्धांत केवल विरोध के लिए नहीं बल्कि उसको नये सन्दर्भों में देखे जाने की जरुरत है। आज के सामाजिक परिवेश के साथ हमारे साहित्य सिद्धांतों की व्याख्या होनी चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि सिद्धांत और रचनात्मक साहित्य को तुलनात्मक रूप से जोड़कर पढ़ाने की जरुरत है। वहीं के० डी० शर्मा ने कहा कि सिद्धांत का अर्थ है विश्वदृष्टि का विकास। विश्वदृष्टि के विकास के लिए सिद्धांत का होना और पाठ्यक्रम में पढ़ाया जाना बहुत जरूरी है। सिद्धांत हमारे सम्वेदनात्मक ज्ञान को और ज्यादा प्रखर बना देता है। इस सत्र की अध्यक्षता करते हुए प्रो० मैनेजर पाण्डेय ने जोर देते हुए कहा कि हिन्दी में पाठ्यक्रम के विकास और समस्या को उस तरह से कभी नहीं लिया गया जैसे अंग्रेजी के साथ है। पाठ्यक्रम से सृजनात्मक साहित्य का जीवंत रिश्ता होना चाहिए। पाठ्यक्रम को अध्यापक लोग इतिहास की वस्तू समझते हैं और अनेक महानुभावों ने अपनी सुविधा को ही सिद्धांत बना लिया हैं। आचार्य शुक्ल की आलोचना दृष्टि को व्याख्यायित करते हुए प्रो० पाण्डेय ने कहा कि आचार्य शुक्ल ने सुविधा को सिद्धांत नहीं बनाया बल्कि उसकी लोकवादी तथा समयानुकूल सन्दर्भों के साथ व्याख्या प्रस्तत की। आज जो लोग साहित्य सिद्धांत पर यह आरोप लगा रहे हैं कि सभी सिद्धांत पश्चिम की देन है उन्हें आचार्य शुक्ल को फिर से पढने की जरुरत हैं। इस सत्र का संचालन तथा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन डा० रमण प्रसाद सिन्हा ने किया।

संगोष्ठी का अंतिम सत्र इस मायने में काफी महत्वपूर्ण रहा कि हिन्दी के शीर्षस्थ रचनाकारों ने हिन्दी के पाठ्यक्रम को लेकर अपनी बेवाक राय रखी। मैत्रेयी पुष्पा ने जैनेन्द्र के उपन्यास 'त्यागपत्र' को आउटडेटेड बताते हुए उसे स्त्री शक्ति को हीन करने वाला बताया। उन्होंने हिन्दी पाठ्यक्रम को स्त्रीवादी दृष्टिकोण से पढ़ने तथा नयी व्याख्या के साथ पढ़ाने पर विशेष बल दिया। गोदान का स्त्रीवादी पाठ करते हुए उन्होंने बताया कि गोदान की धनिया केवल घर में ही विद्रोह करती है, बाहर नहीं। ऐसा इसलिए कि यह उपन्यास पुरुष द्वारा लिखा गया है। आज धनिया जैसी स्त्री नहीं बल्कि वैसी स्त्री होनी चाहिए जो केवल घर में ही नहीं बाहर भी संघर्ष करे। वरिष्ठ कवियत्री अनामिका ने हिन्दी के गौरव, लोकसंस्कृति की झलक के साथ रोजगार देने वाली भाषा बनाने की बात कही। हिन्दी पाठ्यक्रम में प्रेम और राजनीति संबंधी रचनाओं को एक अलग प्रश्न–पत्र के रूप में रखे

जाने का भी उन्होंने सुझाव दिया। चर्चित लेखिका रमणिका गुप्ता ने इस बात पर चिंता व्यक्त की कि स्त्री, आदिवासी और दलित साहित्य कहीं पाठ्यक्रम के सिद्धांत का हिस्सा भर बन कर न रह जाए। सत्र में भाग लेते हुए रथकण गंगा प्रसाद विमल ने हिन्दी में विपुल अनुवाद की जरुरत पर बल दिया। कवि एवं अनुवादक वरयाम सिंह ने विश्व साहित्य और भाषा के पाठ्यक्रमों से हिन्दी के पाठ्यक्रम को जोड़ने पर बल दिया और कहा कि भाषा शिक्षण तथा व्याकरण पर भी पाठ्यक्रम केन्द्रित होना चाहिए। सत्र की अध्यक्षता करते हुए हिन्दी के वरिष्ठ कवि केदारनाथ सिंह ने कहा कि भारत के सभी भाषाओं के श्रेष्ठ साहित्य को हिन्दी साहित्य के साथ जोड़कर पढ़ा जाए तो साहित्य के नये क्षितिज का विस्तार होगा और नये रचनाकारों के लिए उर्वर काव्यभूमि भी निर्मित होगी। इस सत्र का संचालन प्रो० गोविन्द प्रसाद तथा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन प्रो० रामबक्ष ने किया।

वंशीधर उपाध्याय शोध छात्र, भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र भाषा, साहित्य और संस्कृति अध्ययन संस्थान

#### JNU Teams Participate in the Annual Sports Tournament at Sonipat

JNU Cricket as well as Badminton teams comprising 19 JNU students won medals in the Annual Sports Tournament of O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, held from 7-9 March, 2014. The JNU cricket team won the silver medal under the captainship of Mr. Krishan K. Jha of SLL&CS. They won the first 2 matches and lost to the host team in the finals by 10 runs while chasing the score of 157 runs in 20 overs. Another silver medal was won by JNU mixed doubles Badminton team

comprising of Koyel Sarkar of CSRD and Manish Kumar of SES. They lost to OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat in the finals by 2 sets to 1 with a narrow margin after a commendable performance. We express gratitude to the DOS office for administrative and financial support.

Vikram Singh, Assistant Director Physical Education, Sport Office

#### Periyar Hostel Organizes 1st Hostel Alumni Meet "SANGAM" 2014

The 1st alumni meet of Periyar Hostel was held on 8 March, 2014 in Periyar Hostel JNU. A lot of alumni from different walks of life participated in the meet. While introducing the meet "SANGAM" Hostel President Mushtaq Anjum said that it was difficult to reach all the alumni of the hostel as there was no data base of the contacts. He said that they were contacted through social networking sites like Facebook, and also through the cooperation of many of the alumni themselves who reached out to their friends and helped make the program possible. There was wide appreciation of the efforts of the Hostel committee and President on the part of the Alumni, who took out time from their busy schedules to attend the meet.



Welcoming the alumni, Dr. Devendra Chaubey, Warden of the Hostel and general secretary AAJ (Alumni Association of JNU) said that Periyar is the 1st hostel to take an initiative of this sort. He welcomed the alumni warmly and said that under AAJ there were plans to organize such meets in all the hostels. Senior Warden of Periyar Hostel Dr. Pritam Mukhopadhayya welcomed the alumni on behalf of the current hostel residents saying that it was like welcoming people back to their own homes.

Delivering his keynote address, the chief guest of the program and the vice chancellor of JNU Prof. S K Sopory said that JNU is always open for its alumni. Talking about the contribution of JNU alumni towards society he said that the only thing that distinguish the JNUites in the world is their commitment and dedication towards building a better society in which there is no bar of caste, creed or religion. He also requested the alumni to remember their Alma mater and contribute to it and all ways.

Alumni of the hostel included senior members of the government services, prominent members of corporate houses, entrepreneurs as well as academicians from across the country and beyond. They shared the experience of their days

spent in the hostel and also asked the students to work hard in their studies and do better for their society at large.

At the end of the program Dr. Avinash Kumar, Warden of the hostel, gave the vote of thank to alumni and urged them to maintain their ties with the hostel.

The anchor of the program was Dr. Shafi Ayub, (Hostel alumni). His entertaining anchoring of the event ensured that the long

stream of reminiscences was tempered with humour and interesting trivia which kept the students of the hostel glued to their chairs.

Siddhartha Chakraborti Member Hostel Committee Periyar Hostel

#### **Seminar/Conference**

# 2nd Winter School in Humanities (Foreign Languages) Organized by ASC, 23rd December, 2013 to 11th January, 2014

The Academic Staff College, JNU initiated by the UGC was established in JNU in 1989, and has since emerged as one of the major centres of excellence in the academic life of the country. It has been successfully carrying out the objectives laid down by the UGC in understanding the significance of education in general and higher education in particular, in the global and Indian contexts. By regularly organizing orientation and refresher courses in different disciplines, it is making us, as participants attending the course, understand the linkages between education and economic, socio — economic and cultural development of the society, so that as teachers, we keep abreast of not only the latest developments in our specific fields and subjects, but also orient our students to meet the challenges of life, to become not merely trained professionals, but also better citizens.

It is with this vision in mind that the ASC had run the 'Frontiers in Humanities' as the 1st Winter School and this was the 2nd Winter School dedicated to Foreign Languages. Foreign language teaching presents the maximum challenge to professional excellence. Therefore, ASC as an institution provided an ideal setting for this with its inherent institutional-



ized understanding of the issues in pedagogy and socio — cultural linkages associated with teaching at the level of colleges and universities.

In accordance to the data received by the UGC, it was decided to hold the course this time in winter so as to make it convenient for teachers from outside Delhi to attend the course in large numbers. Moreover, free from the teaching load the resource persons could fully concentrate on this. The structure of the Winter School in Humanities dedicated to Foreign Languages differed from the other refresher courses, since it dealt simultaneously with about 8 foreign languages, each having its own frame work and resource persons. So it was more like conducting 8 refresher courses under one roof. The inaugural session was chaired by the Rector, JNU, Prof. Sudha Pai and the inaugural address was delivered by the Secretary, National Foundation for Communal Harmony and former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden and Latvia, Mr. Ashok Sajjanhar. The Dean, SLL&CS, Prof. M. A. Islahi and the Director, ASC, Prof. R. N. Menon also addressed the participants. The coordinator of the course, Prof. Meeta Narain welcomed the participants and appraised the audience about the structure and the functioning of the course.

The course tried to bring to the participants the very best of Indian scholarship from varied fields. Our resource persons for both, common and language specific lectures were specialists in their respective fields covering eight languages — French, Russian, German, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Chinese and Arabic. In each language we had two lectures everyday including Saturdays, making it twenty-four lectures in all. The themes covered by the specialists were in the fields of language pedagogy and linguistics, literary and culture fields,

teaching methodologies, translation techniques, cultural transformations to literary theories. Besides this, the course tried to cover the areas of politics, literature, economics, theatre, films all of which contribute to foreign language teaching. The resource persons, were invited from JNU, DU, Jamia Milia University, IGNOU and other related institutes dealing with communication studies, developmental studies, ministries and cultural centres. They covered aspects of language pedagogy and linguistics, multi lingual pedagogy, translation theory and practice, literary theories, cultural transformations, use of multimedia and writing of research proposals.

The common lectures, more than a dozen in number, were spread over a period of three weeks. They covered the interdisciplinary aspect across languages. We had representation from the Ministry of External Affairs, senior diplomats and former Ambassadors (Mr. Ashok Sajjanhar), speaking on their vision of India and the world in the 21st century, former Vice Chancellor EFLU, Hyderabad (Prof. Abhai Maurya) speaking on the theoretical aspects of literature, noted historians (Prof. Bhambri & Prof. UP Arora) covering globalization and culture and dialogues between civilizations, Prof. Indrani Mukherjee speaking on Latin American studies, established figures in cinema studies (Prof. Rashmi Doraiswamy), art and theatre (Dr. Kavita Sharma from IIC & Dr. Angelie Multani from IIT, Delhi), experts in literature like Dr. Ranjana Saxena speaking on contemporary women's prose, Prof. S. A. Hassan and Prof.

Ritoo Jeirath on Persian and Russian literature respectively. As such, we were able to cover a wide range of fields covering not merely the language aspects but all aspects, which together go into the making of any foreign language.

The course concluded with participants making presentations in their respective languages which were very informative in nature, thus projecting the hard work put in by the participants in preparing their presentations. The valedictory session was chaired by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. SK Sopory. Eminent writer, academician and former Member, UPSC, Prof. Purushottam Agrawal delivered the Valedictory address, in the presence of the Dean SLL&CS, the Director ASC and the Deputy Director Dr. Rakesh Batabyal.

The unflinching support of the Vice-Chancellor, Rector, Dean, Director, ASC and its entire staff along with the Chairpersons of the respective centres of SLL&CS and the resource persons from JNU & outside contributed to the success of the course. The course accomplished the aim of the 2nd Winter School dedicated to Foreign Languages - to update our knowledge and expertise so as to convey and transfer the sense and sensibility of that language and country to the language learners in a justified manner. With the continued support and suggestions from the committed JNU community, we hope to organize more enriching courses in the future too.

Meeta Narain, Professor Centre of Russian Studies, SLL&CS

# Gopalkrishna Gandhi Delivers National Science Day Lecture on Fostering Scientific Temper

The Centre for Studies in Science Policy (CSSP), JNU in collaboration with the National Council for Science & Technology Communication Division (NCSTC) of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India organized the National Science Day Lecture on 26 February 2014 at JNU Convention Centre. The Lecture titled "Fostering Scientific Temper" was delivered by Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi. This lecture is organized annually by DST on 28th February every year across the country to commemorate Sir CV Raman's discovery of Raman Effect on 28th February 1928. Professor Raman won the prestigious Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 for this work. The objectives of celebrating NSD are to create enthusiasm among the people, to popularize science & technology, and to strengthen scientific temper among the masses. Professor Pranav N Desai of CSSP welcomed distinguished speaker and guests. Professor SK Sopory, Vice Chancellor of JNU, then formally introduced the



speaker. Shri Gandhi is a prolific author, social thinker, and former Governor of West Bengal, former Ambassador and former IAS officer. At present, he is the Chairperson of Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla. DST Secretary Dr. T Ramasami then formally introduced the NSD lecture theme

'Fostering Scientific Temper'. He informed the audience that the concept of scientific temper was articulated first by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1946 in his book Discovery of India, referring to it as "a way of life, a process of thinking, a method of acting and associating with our fellowmen". The term, 'scientific temper' is a wonderfully succinct way to describe a broad concept. By speaking of a nation with a 'scientific temper', he wanted to speak of the people of a nation who would be able to think independently, understand and practice the scientific method in their daily lives, analyse and not take statements at their face value, and avoid simplistic reasoning.

Shri Gandhi, briefly discussed the devaluation of scientific temper in the society since independence although we are achieving higher scientific progress and higher educational enrolment in the country. There has been significant increase in irrational thinking in the minds of men and women, since many religious television channels have proliferated in the last decade — propagating astrological beliefs, religious dogmas and superstitions. He opined uncertainties in modern life lead

many to irrational thinking. He emphasized the need to inculcate 'scientific temper' in young minds, particularly children, students and young adults. Nehru's quest for scientific temper should also be highlighted to today's children. Children should be encouraged to do scientific experimentations and innovations keeping rational minds open.

After his lecture, Shri Gandhi interacted with JNU scholars in the Q&A session. He later distributed prizes of NSD Poster Competition 2014, organized earlier in that week on the lecture theme Fostering Scientific Temper. The first three winners of this poster making competition received cash prizes. The event concluded with vote of thanks given by Dr DK Pandey of NCSTC. Audio recording of this lecture is now available at www.mixcloud.com/cssp\_jnu/, an open access audio channel maintained by the CSSP.

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

#### **Workshop on Biomedical Innovation and the Public**

The Centre for Studies in Science Policy (CSSP), in collaboration with King's College, London organized a two day workshop on Biomedical Innovation and the Public on 13-14 March 2014. The two day workshop invited experts from different sections of society to deliberate on the issues of linkages between biomedical innovation and governance with a focus on the consumers. Experts for the meeting international and national scientists, policy makers, medical practitioners, Non Governmental Organizations, and academic researchers.

In the inaugural address, Prof. Pranav Desai, Chairperson, CSSP, JNU explained the aims and motives behind the workshop as well as the larger context of the CSSP-King's College, London project on State strategies and governance in global biomedical innovations: the impacts of India and China. Prof. Desai contemplated the need for a broader outlook on the issues of transnational governance of these innovations with a focus on transparency, affordability and inclusiveness, funding structures, regulatory bodies and consideration of socio-economic disparities. Prof. Alex Faulkner, project representative from King's college, London presented the agenda and project report.

In the session "Responsiveness of Biomedical Innovation Models to Consumers", participants deliberated on the strategies envisaged in various biomedical innovation models



in order to address the question of responsiveness to health consumers. Dr. Parthasarthi Banerjee, National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), Prof. Alex Faulkner, School of Global Studies, Sussex University, presented their papers in this session.

The session "Open Access and Biomedical Innovation: Trends, Issues and the Way Forward", discussed the meanings, trends and issues in open access innovation models from the perspectives of industry, academia and policy makers. Zakir Thomas, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, Mamta Mishra and Prof. Hari Babu, , Central University of Hyderabad, Dr. Anup kumar Das, CSSP, Mr. Manoj Vimal, Central University Gujarat, presented their papers in this session.

This session in the open discussion phase contemplated on the issues of free ridership, motivation for the participants of the OSDD initiative, and the elements of nationalism, gender, and inclusion being associated to it as a moving forward vision.

The third main theme entitled "Role of Patient Organizations/ Stakeholders in Governance of Biomedical Innovation" explored the space, role, representation and advocacy strategies of patient and civil society organizations in the governance of biomedical innovation. Dr. Poonam Bala, fellow at Cleveland University, Dr. Parvathi Iyer, CSSTIP, Central University Gujarat, Dr. Duraiswamy Navaneetham and Prasanna Kumar Shirol, from the Foundation for Research on Rare Disease and Disorder (FRRDD), Bangalore, through various case studies, illuminated the need for R&D and Investment for drug discovery and diagnostics on rare diseases.

The second day of the workshop began with the session on "Public/ Private Partnerships in Biomedical Innovations: Trends and Issues". Dr. Bhaskar Vyas and Dr. Rupa Dave from Total Potential Cell, Vadodara, Gujarat, Dr. Harpreet Singh, ICMR, Delhi, Prof. Indira Ghosh, School of Information Technology (SIT), JNU, Nimita Pandey and Prof. Pranav Desai, CSSP, Rahul Mongia, CSSP, presented their papers in this session

The fifth theme of the workshop, "Case Studies of Regenerative and Personalized Medicine" emphasized on the specific cases of biomedical innovation and the challenges these specific cases highlight for the broader governance of emerging technologies in society. Dr. Geeta Shroff of NU Tech Mediworld,

New Delhi, Prof. Dinesh Abrol and Nidhi Singh, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi, Prof. Alex Faulkner, Sussex University, Rajesh K. and Prof. Pranav Desai, CSSP, JNU presented their papers in this session. The session touched upon many ethical and social aspects of stem cell therapy through open discussion.

The session "Cross-Cutting panel discussion" engaged the experts and other participants to take a detour of the two-day workshop and think out loud on the main emerging themes to be taken further for policy suggestions. Professor Aditya Bharadwaj, chaired the session Dr. Yatish Agarwal, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Prof. Dinesh Abrol, visiting Professor at CSSP, Prof. Pranav Desai, CSSP, Prof. R.N.K Bamezai, School of Life Sciences, JNU, Prof. Alex Faulkener, University of Sussex, Dr. Geeta Shroff, New Delhi, and Dr. Bhaskar Vyas, Vadodra participated in the discussion. Participants agreed on the need for mobilization of larger public on issues of biomedical innovations (such as stem cell therapy) in order to combat power relations and hierarchies in developing of these innovations for larger social good. In the concluding session, Prof. Pranav Desai and Prof. Alex Faulkner extended their thanks to the participants, with the wishes to take the dialogue of this hybrid forum further in the form of policy suggestions which can play a significant role in shaping the landscape of biomedical innovation in India and the United Kingdom.

Pranav N. Desai, Chairperson Centre for Studies in Science Policy, SSS

#### Innovation in Higher Education: Indo-U.S. Collaboration – Round Table Discussion

The Communication and Information Services (CIS), JNU in collaboration with the National Knowledge Network (NKN) organized a Round Table Discussion on "Innovation in Higher Education: Indo-U.S. Collaboration" on 20 March 2014 at JNU Convention Centre. Dr. Sam Pitroda, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Public Information Infrastructure & Innovations, chaired the session. The panelists included the Presidents, Vice Presidents, Chief Information Officers (CIOs), and Chief Technology Officers (CTOs) of U.S. Universities and select Vice Chancellors and Directors from Indian universities. Dr. Sam Pitroda, in his lecture, briefly discussed several national missions and initiatives undertaken as outcomes of recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC), 2005-2008. As India has entered into the highly enlightened club of emerging nations, there were concerns related to availability



of world-class infrastructure across the country. NKN became operational in 2009 to provide high-speed internet connectivity and world-class infrastructure to educational and research institutions across the country. Both NKC and NKN are

designed to contribute to 8-10% economic growth in the country. NKC recommended certain measures to address the problem of skills shortage that hinders high economic growth. He also observed that sets of NKC recommendations are not yet implemented due to lack of political will. Many bills are stuck in our parliament. He recognized that the Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI) had become the right tool for empowering common citizens.

The U.S. delegation was led by Indiana University President Prof. Michael A. McRobbie. In his lecture Dr. McRobbie informed the audience that U.S.-based Internet2 Network is entering into an advanced networking partnership with NKN for enabling "American and Indian scientists to collaborate in major new ways and use it to drive new growth and research innovations for generations to come. Indeed, it promises to have an enormous impact in a wide range of areas that enhanced the quality of life for people in both of our countries and around the world." He further said this knowledge partnership will enable "major transformation through innovation and support for globally shared research, education and communications".

Indian discussants talked about promises and optimal utilization of resources available in NKN, whereas U.S. delegates talked about their experiences in implementing advanced information and communication technologies (ICTs) in their respective universities. They also shared their experiences in implementing MOOCs, open courseware (OCW), and digital learning channels for connecting millions of lifelong learners. NKN Board Member and Mission Director (e-Governance) Dr. B.K. Gairola informed the audience that NKN will bring major transformation and enhance innovative potentials of Indian universities through the next generation online networking. At the end of this Round Table Discussion a working group was formed involving top educational administrators of both sides for preparing action plans to move this partnership forward. The lecture concluded with vote of thanks given by Mr Sanjeev Kumar, Director CIS. Audio recording of this event 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
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#### **Centre of Persian & Central Asian Studies Celebrates Nourooz Festival**

The 21st day of March every year marks the beginning of Persian New Year and it is called the Nourooz the New Day which is celebrated as a grand festival in Iran and all the Persian speaking countries.

Students of the Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies celebrated the traditional Persian festival of Nourooz at the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University on 21st March this year. They made their best efforts to showcase the Persian literature and culture in Room No. 214 of the School by creating a colourful Persian ambience and the recitation of poetry. The Haft Sin traditional table of Nourooz comprising seven items: coin, apple, vinegar, fish, garlic, halwa and wheat to symbolize the seven different elements of the Earth. All the faculty members, staff and students of the Centre and Professors Qasmi and Khaliq Rashid were present on the occasion. Prof. Khwaja Mohd. Ekramuddin, Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, came in person to attend the Naurooz festival and host lunch at the JNU Convention Centre. All the guests and audience were warmly welcomed by the M.Phil students Rifat Mehdi Rizwi and Ali Mousavi. Other students of the Centre



Hasan Jafri, Suman, Stuti, Sunita, Meenakshi, Khurshid, Reza, Wasi and Dheeraj — sang a Persian song to inaugurate the event. A documentary giving a brief description about the Nourooz was shown to the audience UNESCO has declared 2014 as the year to celebrate Nourooz Festival all over the Persian world.

The Chairperson of the Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, Prof. S.A. Hasan delivered his inaugural address in which he recited his beautiful Persian and Urdu poems to show the humane and secular nature of the festival of Naurooz. He was thankful to the guests who came all the way to participate

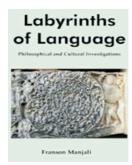
in the Nourooz celebration at the Centre. He said the he was highly indebted to the Director of NCPUL, Khwaja Mohd Ekramuddin for the support extended to the Centre to host the event in a befitting manner. Prof Sharif Husain Qasmi of D.U., while praising the efforts of students and faculty members of CP&CAS for organising the festival of Nourooz in an exquisite manner spoke on the ancient history of Nourooz celebration in Iran and it's development in India during the time of Balban and Babur. Prof. Siddique Niazmand of Kashmir and Mr. Mohammadi Alavi of Afghanistan present on the occasion expressed their gratitude to the organisers for inviting them to join the Nourooz celebration in the Centre. Prof. Khwaja Ekramuddin in his remarks applauded the Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies for the endeavour to organise the first ever grand celebration of Nourooz at Jawaharlal Nehru University. He also expressed his indebtedness to the Centre for allowing the National Council for Promotion of Urdu language to be a part of this gala day celebration. Prof. Khalique Rashid from the embassy of the I.R. of Afghanistan at New Delhi spoke on the cultural linkages between India and Afghanistan and added that it was the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan who set the trend of celebrating Nourooz in India.

At the end, Dr. Syed Akhtar Husain was invited to propose a vote of thanks and on behalf of the Centre, he sincerely thanked the audience individually and collectively and particularly the Chairperson and students of the Centre who made this idea of celebrating Nourooz a reality. He also requested the faculty members and students to make the Nourooz celebration an annual event of the Centre in the years to come. He proposed to Prof. Rashid to invite all the students and faculty members of CPCAS, JNU to Afghanistan in the coming year to witness Nourooz celebration at Mazar Sharif.

At the end of the programme, beautiful Nourooz gifts were distributed among all the people present in the audience.

Nadeem Akhtar, Research Scholar Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies SLL&CS

#### **Our Publications**



"Labyrinths of Language: Philosophical and Cultural Investigations" by Prof. Franson Manjali, Centre for Linguistics, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, published by Aakar Books, Delhi. ISBN: 978-93-5002-276-4.



"Ho Chi Minh: Cheendeshe Karajiboner Dinoponji" (Ho Chi Minh's Prison Diary during his captivity in China). Translated from Original Chinese into Bengali and Annotated by Prof. Priyadarsi Mukherji, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, published by Monfakira, Kolkata

(November 2013). ISBN: 978-93-80542-59-1.



"The body in Indian art and thought" by Prof. Naman P. Ahuja, Associate Professor, School of Arts & Aesthetics, published by Ludion (1 March, 2014) ISBN-10:9461301332 ISBN-13: 978-9461301338

#### **Alumni Corner**

#### An interview with Mr. Vijay Singh, Film-maker, screenplay-writer and novelist



### Mansi: How did your journey to JNU begin?

Vijay Singh: Just to situate things, we are speaking of 1972. I had just sat for my Bachelor's final at St Stephen's College. For the summer holiday, one of my uncles had invited me to spend

some time in a rest house on a small dam in Dakpathar, near Dehradun. I remember I was going through a strange intellectual phase of my life. Such was the hunger that I wanted to just gulp down anything that went by the name of a good book or a good LP (music record!). So I went to the St Stephen's library, chatted up the librarian to issue me some 50 books – which was clearly not allowed!- and left for Dakpathar. And of course, I had picked up some music – I remember Simon and Garfunkel and their El Condor Pasa! For 45 days, then, I read one book a day - Sartre, Camus, Hesse, Malraux, Mann, Beckett. One per day. God knows if I really understood anything of them! Anyway, when I returned to Delhi, there was talk amongst friends of the Centre for Historical Studies at JNU - and that it had a wonderful faculty with great historians like RomilaThapar, Bipin Chandra, S Gopal, Sabyasachi Bhattacharya. It was very tempting to join JNU and be a student of these masters. But I was still not really convinced. Being an academic was never really the goal of my life. I was more interested in writing, drama etc.

Around the same time, I was desperately trying to chase a girl those days. One day, we were having coffee in Connaught Place, when she surprised me by suddenly declaring that she was going to join CHS at JNU! "O are you? So am I", I said, despite the haze of all my confusion. All my indecisions fell flat at the feet of love, and my decision was instantly made! I jumped into the first auto rickshaw and said JNU chalo! Long live the young lady!

It might sound funny today but it's true that it was this girl, in retrospect, who had inadvertently opened the doors to a divine light.

# Mansi: What was your experience here over the years you were here?

**Vijay Singh:** Academically, of course there were great teachers at CHS — Romila, Gopal, Bipin, Bapa. But there was more to it than just teaching. We didn't just learn history - but also learnt life. How history holds the key to understanding life. Then their way of teaching was so different. To be able to call

teachers by their first name at that age was itself a wonderful experience. The span of their knowledge was astounding — they talked economics, philosophy, sociology, literature, and of course history. They were truly multi-disciplinary in that sense, where one discipline dissolved into another like a delicious "osmosis".

Then the fantastic JNU culture. Any knowledge needs freedom to grow, and JNU hostels provided this freedom to boys and girls alike. Being able to have a room to yourself, not having to sign a register at the entrance or having a curfew, being able to discuss things until the crack of down at the dhabas, watch films at Priya after walking almost 1 km through the woods. Delhi was safe for our girls those days. That freedom was perhaps the greatest gift of JNU. As I said, without freedom, without the absence of fear, nothing can sail to the shores of light!

Ours were also socially tumultuous times - the Naxalite movement, the Railway strike which almost brought the Indira Gandhi government down, the nascent industrial working class agitations... Around that time, a man called Jairus Banaji had arrived from Oxford in JNU. A superb thinker, a fountainhead of knowledge, a mesmerizing public speaker, the kind JNU will perhaps never see again. With him we slowly formed a "revolutionary" Trotskyist group — and our ambition was to understand the Indian social classes and the state-form, and then of course to emancipate not just India, but the whole world! This was the passion that governed our readings. Why we read those books was not to acquire some passive knowledge, but to change the world around us. For many years, we followed that dream, through the ebbs and flows of history. In fact, that experience marked many of us forever. It was the most fruitful intellectual phase of my life at JNU, when dream and action worked hand in hand at the service of a social transformation. In many ways, this phase was like an orgasm, it did not last a lifetime but it shaped our mind and our desire for a lifetime.

### Mansi: How do think JNU has changed over these years?

**Vijay Singh:** Maybe one has to be in constant touch with the place to comment on that. But one thing that did strike me, it is a politically less aware campus. But that is really a reflection of the society we live in, and JNU and many campuses worldwide are only mirroring a depoliticisation of intellectual life. But it's always difficult to say how social passion in life, emerges and disappears.

#### **Alumni Corner**

I would like to believe it's the same as before. Maybe some of the issues are different, people are more into jobs and a little corporatist culture has seeped in. But that's not a bad thing in itself as long as one makes good human use of any form of knowledge.

Again, it's an easy thing to say that the Berlin wall fell, but with the fall of the Berlin wall, the bipolarity of the world was lost and we were left with a unipolar world - which meant that people started thinking only capitalism shall survive, only the culture of money, the culture of power, the culture of the commodity, the culture of consumerism. So this campus depolitisation worldwide is a reflection of this phenomenon. Francois Truffaut said, after returning from Hollywood, that it is the only place in the world where money has acquired the same stature as morality. So what I am saying is that the values have changed as the epoch itself has changed. But that itself will change. This time a spiritual and human search will also be the motive force in the 21st century.

### Mansi: What trajectory did your career take post JNU?

Vijay Singh: I did my Masters from CHS in Modern Indian History, and then MPhil. During PhD work we were considered to be good students by the faculty but it must be said, we were more interested in politics - in changing the lives of our people in the country, in changing the world really. Nobody was really interested in applying for jobs. Applying for the IAS etc was obviously out of the question. We felt that we owed our lives and our social commitment to the world. Then came the emergency, those were difficult years, although we were not threatened personally. After the emergency, I worked a fair bit outside JNU - with the Tuglaqabad railways workers, the Cotton textile mill workers in Kanpur, for a short while I went to the south of Bihar — Singhbhum. In retrospect this political work with the working men and women was a very illuminating and emotionally enriching experience. A lot that goes into my

films and books has come from those days.

On a different front, through Jairus, I fell in love with the French artistic movement - surrealism. That was to change my life forever. Marxism, surrealism and a certain spiritual quest became the three strands of my journey through life. One fine day, I picked up my backpack and left for Paris — the Mecca of surrealism!

## Mansi: What are some of the highs and the lows of being in this profession?

**Vijay Singh:** I suppose you are meaning the profession of filmmaking. While writing is more fulfilling in a very personal way—it digs deeper into you—filmmaking allows me to meet my audience, which is not always the case with writing. I love presenting my films, because it gives me the rare opportunity to meet an audience which has, within a span of 90 minutes, just discovered your work, all together in one go—and it's wonderful to be able to discuss with them. It's almost an act of love, when the object and the subject dissolve into each other,

## Mansi: You have seen different places, universities, what sets JNU apart for you?

**Vijay Singh:** I heard Amitabh Bachchan once say during his parliamentary election near Allahabad, that the village elephant goes all over the place but returns finally to his land of birth. JNU was this place for me – the learning, the loves, the walks into the infinite horizon. Some relationships are irrational, and they are best left at that. One shouldn't think too much about them. Mind is an enemy of man.

# Mansi: Any special memory of JNU to be shared with everyone?

**Vijay Singh:** Yes. I will share it in a future novel or a film.

Mansi: One message to the students reading this?

Vijay Singh: Liberty, love, poetry.

#### **OBITUARY**

Shri Shivajee Sah, Cook, Brahamputra Hostel, passed away on Saturday, 15 February, 2014

Shri Gopi Chand, Khalasi (Civil), passed away on Friday, 14 March, 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

#### **Public Relations Officer**

Public Relations Office Room No. 102, Administration Block, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi — 110067 Please attach a passport size photograph also

### **Photo Gallery**











- Indian National Science Academy & JNU organized a Public Lecture on "Beauty and Fitness for Purpose: the Architecture of Proteins, the Building Blocks of Life" by Professor Robert Huber, Foreign Fellow, INSA (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 1988) on 4 March, 2014. Photo shows: Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Dinakar Mashnu Salunke, Immunologist, National Institute of Immunology, Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar, Professor, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Prof. Robert Huber, Foreign Fellow, INSA, Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Professor, School of Life Sciences, and Prof. Tej Pal Singh, Distinguished Biotechnology Research Professor, Department of Biophysics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences.
- A delegation from Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University of Riyadh led by Dr. Sulaiman Abdullah Abal Khail, Rector, visited JNU to meet the Vice Chancellor, S.K. Sopory on 6 March, 2014. Photo shows: Prof. Varun Sahni, Chief Advisor, International Collaboration, Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor with Dr. Sulaiman Abdullah Abal Khail, Rector, Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University and members of delegation.
- 3. The Special Centre for the Study of Law and Governance & the Centre for Women Studies, SSS, organized a Book Launch by Prof. S.K. Sopory on "Public Secrets of Law Rape Trials in India" edited by Dr. Pratiksha Baxi on 7 March, 2014. Photo shows: Dr. Pratiksha Baxi, Special Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Amit Prakash, Chairperson, Special Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, and Prof. Shefali Jha, Chairperson, Centre for Women's Studies, SSS.
- A five member delegation headed by Prof. Md. Rafiqul Hoque, Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh, visited JNU on 10 March, 2014 to signed an MoU with JNU. Photo shows: Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor with Prof. Md. Rafiqul Hoque, Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Agricultural University.
- Prof. Akira Takahashi from Osaka University visited JNU on 19 March, 2014 to discuss possible cooperation between JNU and Oska University. Photo shows: Prof. Varun Sahni, Chief Advisor, International Collaboration, Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor, and Prof. Akira Takahashi, Trustee, Vice-President, Osaka University.
- 6. The Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, SSS, organized the XXII Krishna Bharadwaj Memorial Lecture delivered by Smt. Leela Samson, eminent Dancer & Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification, Mumbai on 20 March, 2014. Photo shows: Prof. Jayati Ghosh, Chairperson, Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, SSS, Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector, Smt. Leela Samson, eminent Dancer & Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification, Mumbai and Prof. C.P. Chandrasekhar, Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, SSS.







विश्वविद्यालय की विशेषताएँ होती हैं; मानववाद, सिहण्णुता, 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. National Service Scheme, JNU organized a clean campus, green campus programme on 22 March, 2014. Photo shows: Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abhijit Karkun, Cordinator (NSS JNU), Centre for French and Francophone Studies, SLL&CS, and NSS Volunteers at Partha Sarthy Rock.
- 8. The Centre for Japanese Studies, SLL&CS supported by the Embassy of Japan, the Japan Foundation & the Japanese Association organized a Japanese Cultural Festival "KIZUNA-2014" on 28 29 March, 2014. Photo shows: A theater performance performed by Japanese Students.
- The Centre for East Asian Studies, SIS organized a two days International Conference on "India Korea Relations" on 21 March, 2014. Photo shows: Dr. Jitendra Uttam, Centre for East Asian Studies, SIS, Dr. Varaprasad Sekhar Dolla, Centre for East Asian Studies, SIS, and H.E. Lee Joon – Gyu, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in India with other officials of Republic of Korea.
- 10. विश्वविद्यालय के उद्यान विभाग को दिल्ली कृषि उद्यान सोसाइटी भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान द्वारा दिल्ली में 01–02 मार्च, 2014 को आयोजित "पूसा उद्यान शो 2014"। चैलेंज कप विश्वविद्यालय के विभिन्न उद्यानों तथा गमलों की सजावट हेतु पुरस्कार स्वरूप प्रदान किए गए। फोटो में: डॉ. संदीप कुमार चैटर्जी; कुलसचिव, प्रो. सुधा पाई; कुलदेशिक, प्रो. सुधीर कुमार सोपोरी; कुलपति एवं अन्य पदाधिकारी।







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