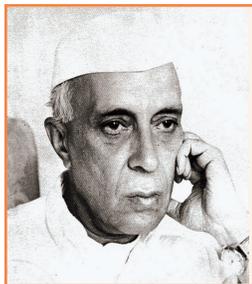


Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



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

Jawahar



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

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

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



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

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An interview with Prof. S.N.Malakar, Chairperson, Centre for African Studies, SIS.



Bhoomika: When and how did your association with JNU begin?

Prof. Malakar: I joined SIS in 1980. Before that, having passed out from Bhagalpur University, I was working as a middle school teacher but without pay in a village in Lakhisarai of Munger district. I wanted to study further. Someone told me that there was a Marxist

University in Delhi where I stood a better chance than in BHU and where I could also learn English. So I borrowed money from friends and filled the form. I got selected too. But the interview was a tough deal for me as I could neither speak English nor very proper Hindi. My Hindi came out mixed with Maithili and Angika. The interview board consisted of Prof. K.P. Saxena and Prof. Urmila Phadnis. However, Prof. Vimal Prasad joined them only to help them understand what I was saying. They liked my answers and selected me. I am grateful to JNU. This is the only University which strives to bring in students with great potential from the remotest corners of the country. Later, when classes started, my woes knew no end as all professors taught in English. Prof. Girijesh Pant advised me to attend all the classes even if I understood nothing. I never missed classes and benefitted from this. All my teachers helped me.

Bhoomika: Were you active in politics?

Prof. Malakar: Yes, I was. When I came for my interview, I stayed as guest with some AISF activists. I joined that organisation later. In 1982-83, I was elected as the Councillor from SIS. In 1983 the political atmosphere of JNU changed. It was a time of struggle for all of us. It was a sad period. The aura of JNU stood faded. There was a zero year and the deprivation points in admission were reduced. In '84, I contested the election for the president's post. I was defeated by the SFI candidate by a mere margin of 47 votes. It was a historic event as AISF had never been such a potent rival of SFI. After that I concentrated on finishing Ph.D. In 1990, I joined JNU as Associate Professor in Centre for West Asian and African Studies.

Bhoomika: Tell us something about the new Centre for African Studies.

Prof. Malakar: Since long, prof. Ajay Dubey and I had felt that African Studies should have an independent centre in JNU. We pursued this and finally, it came into being on 10th of December, 2009. We have executed many programmes. We have around 40 scholars in the Centre. We keep all 55 African countries in mind while picking up research areas. We focus on two major approaches. Firstly, we look at the internal dynamics of African nations- the socio-economic, cultural and ethnic conditions. Secondly, we encourage Comparative studies between India

and Africa alongwith (bilateral and even trilateral), relation between India and Africa. We also focus the India's efforts to persue its relation with AU, ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC, IOC, IBSA etc.

Our thrust area is Indian diaspora in Africa. There are 22 lakh Indians in Africa. We study the specificity of Indian people's relations with every area of Africa they went to. We pay attention to the structure of this diaspora (whether it is permanent or transient), the reaction of the locals to them, impact of their presence on the socio-economic-cultural life of Africa and the nature of their assimilation in the social fabric. We have formed African Studies Association (ASA) which actively organizes seminars, workshops, film shows and talks. The film section is handled entirely by students. We also have a programme called 'Tuesday Africa Seminar' through which academicians, diplomats and cultural activists are invited to the Centre every Tuesday to interact with the students. Two journals in African Studies are also running. Our students have publications in international journals. Over the years JNU's contribution in the area of African studies has been such that no seminar can happen in India without JNU's contribution. We are very well-established in this field. Our assets are, of course, our students. They are the ones who have set milestones in the area of African Studies. But there remains a lot of work to be done in this new centre. We have only two teachers and we need more hands now. We have posts to fill up.

Bhoomika: What is your long term vision for the Centre?

Prof. Malakar: I want the students to develop a holistic view on life and the world. Africa has been divided into different parts according to the colonial history. You must have heard about the Francophone areas and the Anglophone areas and so on. We need to challenge such nomenclature. Also, all these areas need to be explored. We have to undertake separate projects on all of them. We can also exchange significant information in the areas of agriculture and polity.

The eco-social conditions of Africa must be understood entirely before India decides its international policy on Africa. Our job is to research all these angles. Academic impact on bureaucracy is essential in the present times. Any confusion in the international policy can cause a diplomatic disaster. Therefore, bureaucrats should not dictate the relations between India and Africa.

We also aim to increase our collaboration with African universities. The indigenous trends of research in the African academia should be known to us. It is fine to borrow knowledge from the West about Africa. But we should not buy their perspectives too. Following this line of thought, we are already negotiating with two organizations Osseria and Codeseria, for exchange-based programmes.

JNU for me is the motion of my life. The gratitude to this mother institution is not a simple exercise to express.

Movement

Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor shall continue to hold the office of the Vice-Chancellor till his successor is appointed and enters upon his office, in terms of Statute 3(4) of the Statutes of the University.

Professor Ramadhikari Kumar's term as Special Advisor to Vice-Chancellor shall continue till Professor B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor demits the office

◆ The following new Centres of Studies/Special Centres of Studies have been created in JNU:

1. North East Studies Research Centre, School of Social Sciences
2. Media Research Centre, School of Social Sciences
3. Centre for the Studies of the Informal Economy, School of Social Sciences
4. Special Centre for Nano Sciences

◆ The name of the School of Informational Technology has been changed as School of Computational and Integrative Sciences.

◆ Communication and Information Services (CIS) has been bifurcated from the erstwhile School of Information Technology (SIT) now School of Computational and Integrative Sciences.

New Deans/ Chairpersons

- ◆ Prof. Indira Ghosh, reappointed as Dean, School of Computational and Integrative Sciences
- ◆ Prof. Alokesh Barua, Chairperson, Centre for International Trade and Development, School of International Studies
- ◆ Prof. T.Nongbri, Centre for the Study of Social Systems as Concurrent Faculty and first Chairperson, North East Studies Research Centre, School of Social Sciences.

- ◆ Prof. Deepak Kumar, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies as Concurrent Faculty and first Chairperson, Media Research Centre, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Centre for the Study of Regional Development as Concurrent Faculty and first Chairperson, Centre for the Studies of the Informal Economy, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Prof. Sanjay Puri, School of Physical Sciences as Concurrent Faculty and first Chairperson, Special Centre for Nano Sciences.

Retirements/Resignations

- ◆ Shri Fateh Singh, Joint Registrar, Inter Hall Administration
- ◆ Shri Chinmay Nath, Technical Officer, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences
- ◆ Shri Raj Singh, Assistant Librarian, EXIM Bank Library
- ◆ Smt. Rajni Ramchandani, Senior Assistant, BAG Section, Finance & Accounts Deptt.
- ◆ Shri S.D.S. Rawat, Senior Assistant, School of Environmental Sciences
- ◆ Shri Ram Lal, A.C. Operator, Engineering Branch
- ◆ Shri B.C Upadhyaya, Office Attendant, Centre of French and Francophone Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies
- ◆ Shri Shyam Lal Rana, Carpenter, Engineering Branch
- ◆ Shri Asha Ram, Helper Mess, Brahmaputra Hostel
- ◆ Smt. Basanti, Safaikaramchari, Sanitation Cell
- ◆ Shri Rajesh Kumar, Junior Engineer (Electrical) Engineering Department

Corrigendum

Jawaharlal Nehru University Staff Association

Treasurer

: Vinod Singh

Achievements/Awards



◆ **Prof. Vaishna Narang**, Centre for Linguistics, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies has been accorded the title of “Visiting Professor” by the University of Essex, UK, for a period of three years, from June 2010 to May 2013. Prof. Narang will be participating in research, teaching and other academic activities of the Department of Language and Linguistics, University of Essex during this period.



◆ **Prof. Ajit K. Mohanty**, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences has been chosen as a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science (APS), USA, “in recognition of (his) sustained outstanding contributions to the advancement of psychological science”. He has also been awarded this year as a Fellow of the National Academy of Psychology, India.



◆ **Prof. P.A. George**, Centre for Japanese, Korean and North East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, has been invited as a Visiting Research Scholar for one year by the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken), Kyoto, Japan, to head a Group Research Project entitled, “Fusion of Religion and Folklore in Literature: A Reinterpretation of Miyazawa Kenji's World View”. Around twenty renowned Japanese professors and scholars from various Universities and Institutes in Japan will be joining Prof. George in this research project.



◆ **Sh. M.K. Prabhakar**, Assistant Registrar (D), has been appointed as Deputy Registrar, Ambedkar University, Delhi on deputation basis.



◆ **Shri V.K. Manchanda**, Section Officer, has been appointed as Assistant Registrar, Ambedkar University, Delhi on deputation basis.



◆ **Sh. Tarun Sarder** and Md. Phakharuddin Ansari, Research Scholars, Centre for Spanish Studies and Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, School of languages, Literature and Culture Studies respectively won Bronze Medals in the Delhi State Weight-Lifting Championship 2009-10 organised by Delhi State Weight-Lifting Association.



◆ **Mr. Subir Rana**, Research Scholar, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences was Selected for the summer school for Graduate 'Borders (I) – Regions and Regionalization' organized by the Research Institute of Contemporary History and Culture (RICH), Hanyang University, Seoul and sponsored by the National Research Foundation of Korea at the Ist Flying University of Transnational Humanities (FUTH), South Korea, Seoul from 11-16 June, 2010. He also presented his research paper titled “End of Innocence: Criminal Tribes Act, 1871”.



केदार कुमार मंडल, शोध छात्र, भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र, जेएनयू, अपने शोध कार्य “प्रवासी हिन्दी कथा साहित्य—सांस्कृतिक स्मृति और समायोजन के द्वन्द्व” को सुचारु रूप से पूरा करने हेतु 'International Migration and Diaspora' (IMDS) प्रोजेक्ट, Zakir Husain Center for Educational Studies, JNU की ओर से मारीशस भेजे गए थे। जहाँ Mahatma Gandhi Institute द्वारा – ‘विश्व प्रवासी हिन्दी साहित्य—मारीशस के विशेष संदर्भ में’ विषय पर इन्हें एक व्याख्यान के लिए भी आमंत्रित किया गया।

Campus Activities

Annual Sports Presentation 2009-2010

Md. Phakharuddin Ansari won the 'Best Athlete Award' in the Annual Athletic Meet of the University 2009-2010. He also won positions in Weight-Lifting & Power Lifting.



The Annual Sports Presentation was held on March 30, 2010 in the Sports Stadium. Vice Chancellor Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya was the Chief Guest and gave away the prizes to over 175 Prize

winners. Other present were Prof. R. Kumar, Special Advisor to Vice Chancellor and Dr. Shankari Sundaraman, Chairperson, USC. Dr. Shankari Sundaraman welcomed the Chief Guest and other Guests on the occasion.

The Vice Chancellor lauded the importance of sports in the University and appreciated the efforts of the sports office in its endeavor to promote and popularize sports in JNU.

Mrs Tambay, Dy. Director, (PE) thereafter read the annual report detailing the activities of all the clubs during the year.

Prize/Certificate for the following games were given away:

Athletics, Badminton, Cricket, Tennis, Taekwondo, Weight-Power Lifting, Bench Press, Body Building, Yoga, Mountaineering & Trekking.

In the end the Assistant Director, (PE) Dr. Vikram Singh proposed a vote of thanks.

Damayanti V. Tambay, Deputy Director, (PE)

Inauguration of the Indian Association of International Studies (IAIS) at JNU

It was a historic occasion when on 6 April, 2010 Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari inaugurated the Indian Association of International Studies (IAIS) at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Vice Chancellor, Professor B.B. Bhattacharya presided over the function and formally welcomed the Vice President of India. Dean, Professor Yogesh Kumar Tyagi and the Chairpersons of all the Centres of the School of International Studies felicitated Shri Hamid Ansari.

Congratulating Jawaharlal Nehru University for having taken the initiative of launching the Association, the Vice President, a former visiting professor at the School of International Studies, in his Inaugural Address, underlined the need for such a professional body. In order to participate effectively in international decision-making, he said that a thorough understanding of world dynamics and its implications for India is important. An analysis and a conceptual framework become a necessity and would give credibility to national policies and this requires comprehensive research on countries and regions of significance to India and acquiring tools such as language skills, he added. He hoped that the Association would

emerge as platform for exchange of ideas on global studies and identify the deficit areas, so that a more purposeful course in International studies could be charted and public awareness created. He also suggested that scholarship of International affairs be made rewarding and more avenues for employment of scholars created by universities, think tanks, specialized centres of study, Indian business and industry.

Prior to his address, Shri Hamid Ansari released a book at the event, titled "Shaping India's Foreign Policy: People, Politics and Places" co-edited by Professor Amitabh Mattoo and Dr. Happymon Jacob of the School of International Studies. IAIS President Professor Amitabh Mattoo proposed a vote of thanks, in which he highlighted the contribution and participation of various individuals and institutions such as the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) and the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).

**Priti Singh, Assistant Professor
Centre for Canadian, US and Latin American
Studies, SIS**

School of Environmental Sciences organizes Earth Day -2010

In the present time, environmental degradation has become the most burning issue in every nook and corner of the world to ponder over. No place or no one on this planet Earth has remained aloof from the ill effects of the ever increasing environmental pollution. Every other day newspapers report about the loss of biodiversity, climate change, or pollution of air,

water and soil due to unsustainable developmental activities of human being. In the light of this ongoing difficult situation, the School of Environmental Science, JNU celebrated Earth Day from 21st April to 22nd April 2010 to create awareness about these Environmental problems in the wider community of the University and to find out the possible ways for their mitigation.

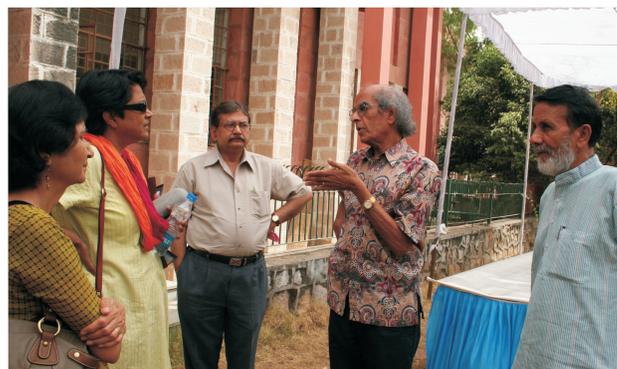
Campus Activities

Earth Day Organizing Committee-2010, a group of student volunteers of the school with the help of other students coordinated the whole programme under the guidance of faculty of the school.

The two day celebration commenced with the plantation drive for which plants, pots manure and other required things were made available by Shri Sunil Kumar, Horticulture Officer; JNU on a simple request. Faculty, staff and students of the school planted saplings in the early hours of the day with the assistance of the school's gardener Sh. Param Lal. Later, in the afternoon, students of the university from different schools participated in Eco-quiz and poster making competition, the venue for which was the Students common Room, SES. Eco-Quiz as the name implies was based on the environment and the questions for which were invited from the faculty members of the school to make it more informative and challenging.

The second day was full of events and started with "Earth Day-2010 Lecture Series". The theme of the lecture was finding solutions to the environmental problems through traditional cum neo scientific knowledge. The auditorium of the School of Art and Aesthetics saw a good crowd to hear the lectures by eminent environmentalists Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Padma Bhusan, Ramon Magsaysay awardee and Prof. Suman Sahai, Convenor, Gene Campaign. Prof. K. G Saxena, Dean, SES started the lecture series by giving the opening address highlighting the importance of the Earth Day in present context. Prof. Sudha Bhattacharya welcomed audience and the speakers and spoke on the need of wider discussion on environmental problems and their solutions on such forums.

Prof. Suman Sahai delivered a very thoughtful and relevant lecture on "Climate Change and Food Security". Though the lecture of Prof. Sahai didn't present a very rosy picture of future as per present ongoing exploitation of the nature but still explored many rays of hope by asking intelligentsia to make interventions in the environmental policy making to have a secure future. Prof. J Behari, SES felicitated Ms. Sahai and appreciated her work on different environmental issues. In the next session, Dr. Kasturi Mukhopadhyay, SES welcomed Gandhian environmentalist Shri Cahandi Prasad Bhatt who was aptly recognized by the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation in 1982 for his efforts in the birth and sustenance of one of the most popular environmental movement of India, Chipko Andolan (Hug the Tree Movement). Padma Bhusan Sri Bhatt ji spoke on the "Himalaya Paryavaran E evam Vikas ke Kuch Bindu- Chipko ke Anubhav" (Himalayan development and some points for



development – Experiences of Chipko). While giving his speech in Hindi he tried to penetrate in the heart of the audience and shared his experiences of the celebrated movement. Interestingly, both the speakers pressed on the concept of sustainable development and emphasized on the core principles of Gandhian Philosophy which says there is enough on Earth for everybody's need but not for greed. On hearing the live experiences from Shri Bhatt ji, Chair of the session Prof S. M. Mukherjee emphasized on the need of a rich blend of traditional knowledge and modern science to find out sustainable solutions of environmental problems.

Lecture series was followed by a session of documentary screening by noted documentary film maker Shri Krishnendu Bose; Earth Care Productions .While welcoming Shri Bose Dr. Sudip Mitra, SES told the audience about the diversity of work of the dynamic documentary maker who screened two environmental documentaries – Latent City and Climate Change: Sunderbans; a Case Study in the SAA auditorium. Chair of the documentary session Prof I. S.Thakur stressed on, how the huge potential of documentaries can be harnessed to deliver the messages about environment to the masses.

The School also organized a presentation series by students showcasing the research done in different labs of the school. The whole programme saw very active participation of the students and faculty of the university with lively discussions. The two day programme finally concluded with a thoughtful summary by Prof. P. S Khillare followed by a vote of thanks by Dr. A. P Dimri, SES, to faculty and students of the school for their nice efforts and to JNU administration for its financial help and cooperation.

Ankur Goyal
Research Scholar, SES
(For Earth Day Organising Committee-2010)

MTNL Will Provide 3G and Wi-Fi Services At Cheapest Rates to JNU

In an endeavour to provide an exclusive, affordable and dedicated telecommunication network to the students and educational institutes, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) the leading total, telecom service provider has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi, on 25 June, 2010.

MTNL would provide its next generation 3G Mobile and Wi-Fi Broadband services at cheapest or concessional rates to the students and University.

Speaking on the new initiative of MTNL, Sachin Pilot, said "JNU is a premier institute in the country, MTNL has offered to facilitate the students of the University to access the Local Area Network (LAN) of

Campus Activities

JNU using MTNL 3G network. With this initiative MTNL would provide Wi-Fi connectivity to all the JNU Hostels at its own cost to ensure that students, staff, and faculty are able to access affordable high speed Broadband Internet anywhere in the hostels”.

According to Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor, JNU “Academic resources such as journals containing research publications are shifting to the use of digital media with online access while new technologies were being explored to disseminate them to large research student and faculty base. The MTNL solution is designed to link the university LAN with its 3G infrastructure that permits roaming access to these resources.”

The students would be able to access the various journals, research articles and other literature-resource available with JNU from any place on the campus including the hostels and canteen, and also when they are outside the Campus or even traveling, he added.

Apart from the above, shortly all MTNL 2G and 3G Mobile service users in JNU would also be able to make unlimited free calls to each other. The operator will provide Wi-Fi Broadband service to the students at very affordable charges of Rs. 199 per month in place of Rs. 599.

Seminar/Conference

International Seminar on, “The Fertile Crescent, Great Powers and India”

A three-day International Seminar entitled, “**The Fertile Crescent, Great Powers and India**” was organized by the Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU. The convener of the seminar was Dr. Bansidhar Pradhan. The seminar had the following technical sessions in addition to the inaugural and valedictory session:

- ❖ Understanding Fertile Crescent: The Macro Dynamics
- ❖ Great powers and the Fertile Crescent
- ❖ Country Focus: Micro level Issues and Challenges and
- ❖ India and the Fertile Crescent

The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. A.K. Pasha, Director, Gulf Studies Programme, CWAS, SIS, JNU. The keynote address was delivered by Ambassador Ishrat Aziz who mentioned that in order to realize peace and security in the region it is important to understand and study the demography of the region. The first technical session on “Understanding Fertile Crescent: The Macro Dynamics”, was chaired by Prof. Valeria Fiorani Piacentini, Director of the Research Centre on the Southern System and the wider Mediterranean, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan, Italy.

Dr. Bansidhar Pradhan, CWAS, SIS, JNU presented the first paper of the day entitled, “Fertile Crescent in Global Geopolitics”.

The second speaker of the day was Prof. A.K. Pasha, who presented a paper on “India-FC Historical and Cultural Ties.

Prof. Amin Saikal, Director, Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, presented a paper on “Elite Fragmentation, Islam and Democracy in the Fertile Crescent: The case of Iraq”.

A joint paper presentation on “Water Issues in the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers Basin” by Dr. Fazal Mahmood, Associate Professor, and Ghazzala Shabana, Sr. Research Scholar, CWAS.

Dr. Jawid iqbal presented a paper on “Consociational Democracy in Lebanon: A Revisit”. The model of such a democracy was developed in Europe in the 1960s.

The post-lunch session of the second day focused on the 'Great Powers and the Fertile Crescent'. Constant references were made to powers such as the US, Britain, Russia and China. Prof. Amin Saikal, chaired this session. Prof. Sheel Asopa, Former Head Department of Political Science, Professor of International Relations, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, was the first speaker of this session. The title of her presentation was, “Great Powers and the Fertile Crescent: An Overview”.

Dr. Wenlin Tian from the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, Beijing, presented a paper on US policy in the region in his presentation entitled, “A Failed Pan Americana, Transformation of US Fertile Crescent policy and its Historical Destination”.

Russia's role in the Fertile Crescent was referred to by Dr. Alexander Demchenko, Research Fellow, Centre for Arab Studies, Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow, in his paper, “Russia's Assertive Role in the Fertile Crescent.”

Dr. Jagannath Panda, Associate fellow, IDSA presented a paper on 'Is China the next big player in the “Fertile Crescent”’.

DR. Sameena Hameed presented a paper on, “The European Union and Fertile Crescent: Economic Relations”.

On the third day of the seminar two themes were discussed in to different sessions- '**Country Focus: Micro Level and Challenges**' & '**India and the Fertile Crescent**'.

Dr. Ashwini Mohapatra, Associate Professor, CWAS, SIS JNU who set the theme for the session by his presentation on “State Formation in the Fertile Crescent and its Typology”.

Explaining the demography of the region, in a joint presentation entitled “Demographic issues in the Fertile Crescent” by Prof. Prakash Jain, and Dr. Kumar Raka.

Seminar/Conference

- ❖ Dr. Ghassan El-Azzi, from University of Lebanon, Tripoli, presented a paper in Arabic that was interpreted in English. The paper was titled, "Lebanon Crisis: Role of Internal and External Factors".
- ❖ Youssef Kafrouni, presented a paper on, "Domination of Great Power in the Fertile Crescent".
- ❖ Dr. Laetitia Bucaille, Research Fellow, CERI, Paris presented a paper on "Israel and the Palestinians".
- ❖ Dr. Bansidhar Pradhan, presented a paper on "State Building in Palestine: Internal Dynamics and External Challenges".
- ❖ Prof. Sheel Asopa, Former Head Department of Political Science, Professor of International Relations, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur chaired the fourth technical session.
- ❖ Shri, S.N. Sahu, Former Director, PMO, Government of India, and presently Jt. Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, spoke on "Gandhi, India's Freedom Struggle and Palestine Question".
- ❖ Prof. A.K. Ramakrishnan commented on Sadik al-Azam's views in his presentation entitled "Islam, Secularism and Politics: Revisiting Sadik al-Azam's Views".
- ❖ Mr. Qamar Agha, Independent Journalist, while speaking on "India and the Palestinian Authority"
- ❖ Prof. P.R. Kumaraswamy, in his presentation entitled "Indo-Israel Strategic Partnership: A Critical Assessment" stated that from 1920s to 1992.
- ❖ Dr. Mohammad Azhar, Associate Professor, CWAS, AMU, Aligarh spoke on "Economic Relations Between India and the Fertile Crescent".
- ❖ Dr. Rafiullah Azmi, Research Associate, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, presented a paper on "India's Relations with Iraq" A Critical Review".
- ❖ Ms. Seema Baidya, Assistant Professor, made a presentation on "India and Levant".
- ❖ H.E. Mr. Khaled Salman, Ambassador of Lebanon in India was invited to give the Valedictory address.
- ❖ The session was chaired by Prof. A.K. Pasha. Rapporteur Ms. Priyamvada Sawant presented a brief report on the seminar sessions concluded so far.

The seminar ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Bansidhar Pradhan, Seminar Convenor.

The three day International seminar proved to be an intense academic exercise that attracted scholars, experts and a large number of students as well.

**Bansidhar Pradhan, Associate Professor
Centre for West Asian Studies, SIS**

International Seminar on "Xinjiang in the 21st Century"

The **Central Asian Studies Programme** of the Centre for South, Central, South-East and South-West Pacific Studies, School of International Studies (SIS), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, organised an International Seminar on **Xinjiang in the 21st Century** at the School of International Studies. The Seminar was well attended with over 100 participants including ten delegates from China, Taiwan and Russia, besides Indian specialists, faculty members and research scholars of the SIS.

In his welcome address, **Prof. K. Warikoo**, Director of the Central Asian Studies Programme, SIS, JNU, threw light on the importance of Xinjiang and India's long historic connection with the region. Xinjiang not only shares its direct border with Kashmir but there are lot of similarities between the Uyghurs and the people of north India. Khotan in Xinjiang, which was the last to embrace Islam and had fiercely resisted Islamic incursion, has in particular similar racial characteristics. Prof. Warikoo pointed out that it is for the first time that such seminar on Xinjiang has been organised. He deeply appreciated the enthusiastic response from the delegates from abroad and India for their participation in the two day deliberations.

The seminar was formally inaugurated by **Prof. R. Kumar**, Special Advisor to the Vice Chancellor, JNU. Welcoming the delegates he gave an overview of the Central Asian Studies conducted in JNU. He appreciated the efforts of Prof. Warikoo in covering new areas of research study. With regard to Xinjiang, he said that Xinjiang, which is a bridge connecting China and Central Asia is an important region. Much is known about the past significance of Xinjiang and its connection with India but not much is discussed about the present day Xinjiang. A seminar on Xinjiang dealing with various contemporary issues would be greatly beneficial to scholars working on the region, said Prof. Kumar.

Prof. K.R. Sharma, doyen of Chinese studies in India, sharing the same sentiments, stressed that even in China not much is known about Xinjiang. So a seminar on Xinjiang would indeed provide a good platform for scholars to analyse the issues about the region. He highlighted that the present century belongs to Asia. He also pointed out that there are areas of conflict between India and China but there are also significant areas where both can cooperate. Both China and India are assertive of their identity, which gives them sufficient ground for cooperation.

Prof. Ganga Nath Jha, Chairperson, CSCSEASWPS, SIS, while detailing the academic activities of the Central Asian Studies Programme of the Centre and summing up the inaugural session, thanked the delegates for their enthusiastic participation in the seminar deliberations.

Ambassador Rajiv Sikri, former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan presided over the **first session** of the Seminar. This session dealt with the ethnic and religious issues in the region. Ambassador Sikri as the Chair brilliantly introduced Xinjiang to the audience, highlighting its significance in the present world and also the problems facing the region. Xinjiang is the main security threat to China and not Taiwan, pointed out Amb. Sikri. Xinjiang is a problem for China, and it has aggravated in the last twenty years. Cultural autonomy denied to the Uyghur people by China created resentment among the local population, intensifying the Uyghur nationalism. Moreover, Chinese policy of settling Han population in the region was also much to the dislike of the local population who feared the consequences of the demographic change in the region. Ambassador Sikri described the Uyghurs as the most developed and sophisticated after the Turks among the Turkic speaking population. And when they see the cultural autonomy being enjoyed by the people of the Central Asian Republics (CARs), it further gives rise to their Uyghur nationalist sentiments. Moreover, resurgence of Islam gives a sense of kinship to Uyghur population to associate with the Muslim world. Environmental degradation in Xinjiang and Tibet would have serious security implications for the world, which would also give rise to conflicts, highlighted Amb. Sikri. He also threw light on the ancient connection between India, Xinjiang and the Central Asian region. Kashgar and Yarkand have long being the central point of trade between India, especially Ladakh and Xinjiang.

Ms. Mrinalini Saran, a noted travel writer who has extensively travelled throughout the region gave a fascinating first hand account of the region through her presentation “Xinjiang: Buddhist Past and Islamic Present”. She blended the past and present through her experience as a traveller in the region, especially the route travelled by Hieun Tsang to reach India in seventh century AD. Before the advent of Islam in the region, it was primarily a Buddhist region. She pointed out that while travelling through Xinjiang, the divide between the Hans and Uyghurs in the region was clearly evident. The two cultures- the Han and the Uyghurs view each other with lot of mistrust today. She also highlighted the similarities between India and the Uyghur culture and language.

Prof. K.R. Sharma, former Head, Department of Chinese Studies, Delhi University, analysed in detail the ethnic issues in Xinjiang in his presentation titled “Ethnic Tangle in Xinjiang”. China is economically getting stronger but it too has its fault lines like lack of democracy, huge gap between the rich and

poor, regional imbalances, problem of ethnic minorities etc. Xinjiang is posing serious problem to China and developments in Xinjiang in the past several years have been remarkable but it has failed to resolve the grievances of the local Uyghur population of Xinjiang, pointed out Prof. Sharma. For China, Xinjiang is important in more than one ways. Xinjiang is located in a strategic area, it is the western gate for China and Xinjiang is China's Muslim face, stressed Prof. Sharma.

Prof. Sharma argued that ethnic identity is stronger than religious identity in Xinjiang. Religious maulvis do not have credibility in the region whereas secular intelligentsia holds important place in the society, pointed out the speaker. Only a very small section of the Uyghur population promotes separatism and the majority is demanding for autonomy. Prof. Sharma summed up by saying that China, by acknowledging the people of Xinjiang as citizens and not as mere subjects of China, would be able to resolve the crisis to a great extent.

Prof. Natalia Ablazhey, National Research Institute of Novosibirsk, Russia, gave an overview of the “Kazakh Diaspora in Xinjiang: History and Perspectives of Ethnic Migration in Kazakhstan”. She brought out the Kazakh aspect of the cross-border linkages. Prof. Natalia gave a detailed overview of the historical aspect of cross border migration. During the Soviet period, the Kazakhs migrated to Xinjiang to escape Soviet repression and now the change is in the other direction, highlighted the speaker. She also pointed out the differences between the Kazakhs migrating from Xinjiang who are under Chinese influence and the Kazakhs of Kazakhstan who are under more Russian influence.

Dr. Sharad K. Soni, Central Asian Studies Programme, SIS, JNU, gave a detailed description of the Mongols of Xinjiang while speaking on the theme “Mongols of Xinjiang in Historical Perspective”. Dr. Soni threw light on the history of the Mongol ethnic minority in Xinjiang. Mongols in Xinjiang are known to be the descendents of Western Mongols. The Mongol ethnic areas in Xinjiang are mainly concentrated in Bayangolin and Bortala Mongolian Autonomous Prefectures and Hoboksar Mongolian Autonomous County, highlighted the speaker. Dr. Soni stated that the emergence, transformation and development of Mongols in Xinjiang show the complex multi-ethnic pattern of Xinjiang. The Ming dynasty utilised the internal divisions within the Mongols to serve their ulterior motives. Oirats or Dzungars were the last real Inner Asian threat to Manchu-China, said Dr. Soni. However, he also pointed out that the Western Mongols never completely submitted or accepted allegiance to the Manchu rulers.

The **Session II** of the Seminar was chaired by **Prof. Evgeny Vodichev** of the Russian Academy of Social Sciences, Novosibirsk. It dealt with the natural resources of the Xinjiang region and Chinese policy towards the region.

Ji Zhen Tu of the Central Asian Regional Development

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Research Centre, Urumqi, China, gave a detailed overview of the natural resources of the region in his presentation “Energy and Natural Resources in Xinjiang: Development and Utilisation”. He pointed that the region is rich in various natural resources, which mainland China does not possess. Tu called the area a “resource and energy conglomeration area” with abundant reserves of oil, natural gas, coal, wind, water energy and various mineral resources. He opined both the exploration and utilization have developed significantly, which is benefiting the local population. Chinese government would soon announce major industrial policies to augment investment in Xinjiang and facilitate proper exploitation of the resources, which would economically benefit all nationalities in Xinjiang, said the speaker.

Wang Jianming of Minority Groups Development Research Institute, Beijing, provided insight on “China's Western Development Ethnic Programme in Xinjiang (2000-2009)”. He stated that Xinjiang in the past was Western China's economic 'depression'. But with development in the last ten years under the Western Development Programme, Xinjiang became China's 'bridgehead' to Central Asia, South Asia and Eastern Europe. Rich natural resources make Xinjiang the most attractive 'treasure land' for the large domestic enterprises and groups. Xinjiang has become China's major base for oil and natural gas production and petrochemical industry. Jianming mentioned the expenses incurred by Chinese government for the development of Xinjiang during 2000-2009. Xinjiang has attracted many enterprises and groups to invest through the strategy of advantageous resources conversion. He also pointed out that Xinjiang has maintained the balance between development and environmental protection during the implementation of Western Development Programme. There has been remarkable progress in the education sector too. He indicated that though the 5th July 2009 incident shook Xinjiang but it could not affect the stability of the region and derail the ongoing reform and development process in Xinjiang.

Chen Xi of Central Asian Regional Development Research Centre, Urumqi, China, provided an account of the developments in the region in his paper on “Economic and Social Development in Xinjiang”. Xi said that constant efforts for the last sixty years have resulted in “sustainable, rapid and healthy development” of the Xinjiang's economy. Xinjiang is the resource production and reserve base of energy and minerals in China, said the speaker. He also pointed out the problem of the Xinjiang's economy, which is heavily reliant on natural resources like oil, natural gas and coal. Lack of funds has affected the development of the medium and small scale enterprises. There is wide gap between the rural and the urban population.

He highlighted that the living condition of the people in the last sixty years has improved and the education sector has also improved. Xinjiang still has certain problems that need to be

addressed such as the employment situation, problem of labour migration and differences among various minorities, pointed out the speaker.

The **Session III** of the two day Conference was presided over by **Prof. Qiu Yonghui** of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing. Initiating the discussion, **Prof. K. Warikoo**, Director, Central Asian Studies Programme, SIS, JNU, gave a detailed analysis of the significance Xinjiang holds for China's policy towards Central Asia. Addressing the issue of “Xinjiang: China's Bridge to Central Asia”, Prof. Warikoo highlighted the pivotal position held by Xinjiang in Asia as a crossroad between Central Asia, South Asia and East Asia. China viewed the Central Asian region as a buffer to protect itself from tribal incursions from the west. It provided China with the first line of defence against foreign incursions and facilitated China's domination over Mongolia and Tibet. Chinese trade with Central Asia and beyond flourished through this region, which became more prominent during the Silk Road days. China and the CARs after their independence following the Soviet disintegration amicably resolved their border disputes. China developed closer ties with the CARs, as it feared that the growth of Pan-Turkic consciousness in the region would spread to Xinjiang. The speaker highlighted that the bulk of China's trade with CARs today takes place through Xinjiang. It provides China with a huge market in Central Asia and also helps it to access wider markets in Pakistan, Iran and through Iran to Persian Gulf. Prof. Warikoo indicated that China hopes to reach South and gain access to sea route through this region. China brought Xinjiang closer to Central Asia by building railways, pointed out Prof. Warikoo.

Prof. Evgeny Vodichev, National Research University of Novosibirsk, Russia, gave an interesting view on the “Big Altai” approach in his presentation on “Xinjiang and South of Siberia in the Paradigm of Interactions in Central Asia: The Big Altai Approach”. Altai region, a part of South Siberia borders Xinjiang (China), Mongolia, Kazakhstan and countries belonging to Central Asia. The speaker emphasised that South Siberia is not just a bridge to Central Asia: it is Central Asia, both geographically and historically. Xinjiang is the interface to Central Asia for China.

Trans-border trade in the last decade marked a quantum jump. About three-fourth of Xinjiang's trade is with the frontier regions. Xinjiang is the route that delivers Chinese goods to Russia, Kazakhstan and further to Europe. Similarly, Xinjiang also transports energy and other raw materials from other countries to mainland China. Though Xinjiang is important for China, the region remains less developed. Prof. Vodichev indicated that the “Big Altai” approach needs to be studied further as it has good potential to balance the needs of all the countries involved. The success of the project, however, depends on the political will, intention to harmonize central and

regional economic policies and overcome the centre-periphery differences in the decision making process.

Senge Hasnan Sering from Baltistan and currently Visiting Fellow at IDSA, New Delhi, spoke on the “Impact of Sino-Pakistan Friendship on Xinjiang and Gilgit-Baltistan”. The speaker highlighted that Sino-Pak alliance matured at the cost of the rights and assets of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan. Chinese interference in Gilgit-Baltistan region increased with the increase in interaction between the Wakhi ethnic communities on both sides of the Karakoram Highway. The Highway facilitated clandestine supply of weapons between China and Pakistan. The rise of religious extremism in Xinjiang and Gilgit-Baltistan has had negative consequences among the local people, which ruined the secular cultural base, besides polarising and weakening the society on sectarian lines. Sering argued that the Uyghur movement's shift from secular to religious nationalism cost them their international support base.

Benefits of land connectivity and trans-border trade have failed to percolate down to the local population in Gilgit-Baltistan, argued the speaker. Moreover, the local markets are flooded with cheap Chinese products, which are posing major threat to the local cottage industries. The Karakoram Highway has also served as a conduit to supply drugs to Xinjiang and Gilgit-Baltistan region. With Chinese presence, the fight for political freedom in Gilgit-Baltistan region has suffered and the people fear that Pakistan might use Chinese assistance to thwart the movement in Gilgit-Baltistan region. Chinese economic presence in Gilgit-Baltistan region is also increasing. The expansion of the Karakoram Highway will increase the number of Pakistanis and Hans in the region, thereby threatening the demographic composition of the region. It would also lead to stiff competition over the natural resources and destroy local cultures and religious identities, cautioned the speaker.

The **Session IV** of the seminar discussed China's nationalities and religious policies in Xinjiang, re-emergence of Uyghur nationalism and Uyghur separatism from within and outside the region, China's ethnic minority policies in Xinjiang, the 5 July 2009 incident in Urumqi, etc. The session was chaired by **Prof. K. Warikoo**.

Starting the discussion **Prof. Qiu Yonghui** of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, spoke on the theme “Rethinking Theory and Practice of Nationalities Policies in China”. There are different views on the nationality issue in China especially after the Lhasa event in 2008 and Urumqi incident on 5 July 2009. Prof. Yonghui evaluated the theoretical confusion in general. She examined the harmful effects of the unwise policies related to the minorities in China. She compared India's success story with regard to state formation with the Chinese practice. India became successful in redrawing the territorial boundaries keeping intact the identity

of regions, sub-regions and of various communities and groups, etc., opined the speaker. India was also successful in reorganising new states on the basis of linguistic-cultural distinctiveness, economic viability and geographical unity along with the federal political and administrative rationality. However, China created two-tiers of nationality- the Chinese Nation and the 56 nationalities. Chinese policy created sharp line of differences between the majority and the minorities, between the provinces and the autonomous regions, which could lead to fragmentation of China in future, highlighted Prof. Yonghui.

Wang Qinji, Deputy Director of Central Asian Regional Development Research Centre, Urumqi, China, spoke on “China's Nationalities and Religious Policies in Xinjiang”. Xinjiang has always been home to multiple nationalities and religions since early days. Qinji pointed out that though there are 55 nationalities in Xinjiang, Uyghurs are largest in numbers followed by Hans in the region. The population movement driven by economic, social and educational factors changed the composition and distribution of nationalities in Xinjiang, which led to increase in the number of nationalities. Several religions have co-existed in Xinjiang along with the local indigenous religion and Shamanism.

However, after establishment of New China, nationality and religious policies were introduced to ensure territorial integrity and to achieve stability and development in Xinjiang. The basic aim of these policies is to form, develop and consolidate the new-type of nationality relationship based on equality, unity and mutuality. He also pointed out that the freedom of religious belief has been implemented fully in Xinjiang. Qinji stressed that these policies have received support from all the nationalities and have laid the foundation for a sustainable, healthy and long-term development in future.



Prof. Jen-Kun Fu, Director, Graduate Institute of Central Asian Studies, Ching Yun University, Taiwan, analysed “Uyghur Nationalism and 5 July 2009 Incident in Chinese Xinjiang”. He discussed the formation of Xinjiang and how this region has been renamed in different times in Chinese History like Xiyu or West Region, Xinjiang (province), East Turkistan (Islamic State to Republic), Dohanstan, Khotan Emirate, Three District

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Revolution, and the current Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Prof. Fu highlighted the creation and development of modern Uyghur Nation and nationalism particularly in the early 20th century. He also described the national unity versus “three evil forces”- religious radicalism, separatism and terrorism, in the context of the East Turkistan Independence Movement.

Prof. Fu mentioned the two ways of achieving independence, such as- the national self-determination through peaceful means and national independence through violent revolt. He discussed the contest between Uyghurs of East Turkistan versus Hans of Xinjiang in different perspectives. The 5th July 2009 incident in Urumqi revealed the real situation and conflict between Uyghurs and Hans in Xinjiang and other parts of China. The Xinjiang Independence Movement (XIM) was wrongly conceptualized and globally Xinjiang was contextualized as Palestine, Afghanistan under Taliban and Al-Qaeda, etc. He stated that the current policy priority of China should focus on national unity instead of labelling and identifying the potential dissent. The present situation in the region needs proper settlement of political and ethnic issues to avoid further radical confrontation in the future, emphasised Prof. Fu.

“Chinese Ethnic Minority Policies and Local Autonomy Movement in Xinjiang” was discussed by **Debasish Chaudhuri** of Department of Chinese Studies, University of Delhi. In the past, there were many failed attempts to establish an independent state by the Uyghurs in the Xinjiang region. Chaudhuri argued that limited autonomy and other state policies could not meet the aspirations of the Uyghurs in the region. Huge economic disparities existed between the Hans and minority dominated regions due to excessive importance for economic activities in coastal provinces of the east and south China during the early reform period. Inequalities in economic development caused the inter-regional imbalance, which encouraged Uyghur resistance during the 1990s. He further stated that the Eastern Turkestan movement is not a unified Uyghur national identity even though there is widespread discontent among the majority of the Uyghurs.

Witness Seminar on Maternal Care in India

The Witness Seminar on Maternal Care in India was organized by the Centre of Social Medicine & Community Health, School of Social Sciences on 7 April, 2010; in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust and the University College of London. 25 experts attended this meeting. This was the first Witness Seminar that was being held outside UK/Europe.

Historians of contemporary medicine and science are increasingly turning, or returning, to the traditional technique

Shih Chien-Yu of the Europe Asia Research Centre, Taiwan, in his presentation threw light on “Re-emergence of Trans-border Uyghur Nationalism in late 20th Century”. He highlighted the development of the Uyghur leadership-in-exile since 1949 when the Chinese communist came to power. Chien-Yu analysed the aim behind establishing the World Uyghur Congress (WUC) in 2004 and explained how this Congress has helped in uniting various groups of Uyghur diasporas with distinct socio-political orientations. The WUC became successful in providing ideal leadership to the Uyghurs in China and worldwide like Erkin Alptekin, Dolkun Isa and Rebiya Kadeer, who are presently serving at the WUC. These leaders' perspective on Uyghur nationalism is also changing while confronting with the Chinese government both domestically and internationally. Chien-Yu discussed various strategies adopted by WUC since its establishment and particularly after the 5 July 2009 incident in Urumqi. He also highlighted the strength and limitation of these strategies.

Dr. Mahesh R. Debata of the Central Asian Studies Programme, School of International Studies, JNU, in his paper on “Uyghur Separatism in Xinjiang: International Response”, gave an overview of the Uyghur separatist movement in Xinjiang and outside the region, and the status of international support to the cause. Dr. Debata stated that the efforts made by Uyghurs to create a separate homeland out of China have failed. Their worldwide propaganda could not become successful, as it failed to internationalize the issue. Uyghurs could not garner support from major powers including the USA. Though the Uyghur diaspora in some European countries such as Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Belgium has been trying to internationalise the Uyghur movement, they have failed to achieve the desired result for this cause hardly any hope of pan-Turkic solidarity among the Turkic Muslims within or outside Xinjiang, said the speaker. There is no support from domestic neighbours like Tibet and Inner Mongolia too.

Angira Sen Sarma, Gatikrushna Mahanta & Punit Gaur, Research Scholars, Central Asian Studies Programme, Centre for South Central Southeast Asian & South West Pacific Studies, SIS

of oral history to supplement, or extend, existing records, and to create new resources. Recognizing that many of the principal sources of contemporary medical history are still with us, they are attempting to hear, and record, their accounts. A particularly specialized form of oral history is the Witness Seminar, where several people associated with a particular set of circumstances or events are invited to meet together to discuss, debate, and even disagree about their reminiscences.

What then do Witness Seminars contribute to the historical record? They serve to guide professional historians through the morass of published and archival sources already referred to, and to alert them to subject matter and sources of which they were unaware; conversely they emphasize to the scientists and clinicians taking part that 'history' embraces their working careers.

The experts made significant contributions to tracking the history and processes that maternal care in India has

undergone. They represented a wide range of specialties including public health, obstetrics, social sciences, midwifery and nursing. The viewpoints of these experts have already been transcribed and the core team is working towards taking it forward.

**Rajib Dasgupta, Associate Professor,
Centre of Social Medicine Community Health,
SSS**

National Seminar on “Greece Beyond Greece”

A three day National Seminar on “Greece Beyond Greece (with special reference to Vedic, Greek and Iranian Parallels: The Cultural Triangle)” was jointly organized by the Greek Chair, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies (SLL&CS) and Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies JNU on 17-19 April 2010

In her inaugural address Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan (Chairperson Asia Project, India International Centre) put forth the view that Greece beyond Greece is not a geographical phenomenon. It is a whole knowledge system. She criticized the western bias of considering this knowledge system as something of their own only. She remarked that Greece should be seen as connected closely to the orient than that of west. In his keynote address eminent Indologist Prof. G.C.Pande (Former Chairperson Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla) most emphatically brought to the fore that the study of classical language was a must for a proper study of Greek Culture. Drawing our attention to the fact that translations often do not give a true picture, he called for going back to original sources both in Sanskrit and Greek, while making a comparative study between the two. He also drew some parallels between Indian and Greek philosophical systems. Earlier, the convener of the seminar introduced the concept theme and welcomed the guests. In his concept note the convener highlighted the contribution of various non-Greek cultures in the making of Hellenism. It was in Ionia in Asia Minor, where the Greek civilization took its shape. Homer, the shaper of Greek spirit, Herodotus, the father of history, and the first Greek Scientists and philosophers, were all from Ionia. After Ionia it was Alexandria in Egypt and Bactria in Afghanistan where “Greece Beyond Greece” reached its culmination. Professor Sankar K. Basu, Dean, SLL&CS, who chaired the inaugural session emphasized in his presidential remark, the attributes of humanism, reason and logic, for which the world is greatly indebted to classical Greeks. The inaugural session was also addressed by His Excellency Mr.Stavros Lykides, Ambassador of Greece, New Delhi. Dr.Hari Ram Mishra, the co-convener of the seminar proposed a vote of thanks.

In 9 academic sessions spanning over three days, 36 papers were presented in the present seminar. The areas covered up in these papers may be mentioned as follows:-

- ❖ Greece Beyond Greece: General concepts and trends, colonization, Greek-barbarian divide, orientalism.
- ❖ Hellenic encounters with Persia.
- ❖ Bactria, Sogdia and India: The Easternmost quarters of Hellenism.
- ❖ Hellenism in Medieval World.
- ❖ Hellenism in Modern World.
- ❖ Vedic, Greek and Avestan Parallels – The Cultural Triangle.

Mythology, Language and Literature, Science and Technology, Philosophical and Ethical Issues, Political and Social Issues.

The valedictory session was chaired by Professor S.P.Gautam, Vice-Chancellor, Rohilkhand University, Bareilly. He emphasized upon the cultivation of multiculturalism, objectivity and open-mindedness, while making an investigation of comparative study of cultures.

The presenters in the seminar represented an array of senior scholars from different parts of India and abroad. The prominent among them included Prof. G.C.Tripathi (IGNCA, New Delhi), Prof. R.P Goldman (USA), Dr. Demetrios Vassiliades (Greece), Prof. K.T.S Sarao (D.U.), Prof. K.M Shrimali (D.U.), Prof. S.Z.H. Jafri (D.U.), Dr. Ishrat Alam (I.C.H.R.), Prof. A.K Pasha (J.N.U.), Prof. B. Subramanyam (J.N.U.), Prof. R.P Singh (J.N.U.), Dr. Ashish Agnihotri (J.N.U.), Dr. Bharat Gupt (D.U.), Dr. Suchanda Ghosh (Calcutta), Prof. A.K Sinha (Bareilly), M Naryan Nafr (Iran), S. Reza Hussain (Afghanistan), Prof. Rekha Chaturvedi (Gorakhpur), Dr. D.K Ojha (B.H.U.), Dr. S.B Lal (Bareilly), Prof. K.K Thapliyal (Lucknow), Prof Prashant Srivastav (Lucknow), Prof. Shasi Prabha Kumar (J.N.U.) and Prof. Om Prakash, Prof. K.G Srivastava, Prof. Anamika Roy, Prof. J.S Tripathi, Dr. Sunil Gupta – all from Allahabad.

On this occasion No.12 and No.13 issues of the annual Journal entitled Yavanika were also released. The journal is published by the **Indian Society for Greek and Roman Studies.**

**Udai Prakash Arora, Seminar Convener,
Greek Chair, School of Language,
Literature and Culture Studies**

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World Fair Trade Day Celebration

A Dialogue on “Fair Trade & Inclusive Development”

Every year Second Saturday of May is celebrated as 'World Fair Trade Day' all over the Globe. This year Group of Adult Education (SSS, JNU) in partnership with Fair Trade Forum India (New Delhi) organized an awareness week (2-8 June 2010) culminating in an academic-cum-cultural evening on 8th June (Saturday) in SSS-I Auditorium. Several JNU students, teachers, foreign dignitaries, social activists, artisans, Fair Trade Organizations and policy makers attended the weeklong programme.

Fair Trade is an organized social movement and market-based approach that aims to help small producers in developing countries obtain better working (wage) and trading conditions and promote sustainable development. The movement advocates higher and fair wages to producers, elimination of child labour as well as promoting social justice and environmental standards.

As part of the celebration, GAE teachers and staff, some committed JNU students and Officers of Fair Trade Forum visited each school, hostel and dhaba inside JNU to carry the message and works of Fair Trade movement in India. JNU

teachers, students and staff also had the opportunity to interact with small artisans and producers affiliated to Fair Trade movement. The publicity campaigns usually started with drum beats at each of the campus dhabas with display of fair trade products and posters. We distributed thousands of pamphlets at each gathering.

On 8th May A Dialogue on “**Fair Trade & Inclusive Development**” has been organized followed by the cultural programme. After the cultural programme, a networking dinner had been organized for all. On this occasion, FTF-I had put up a display stall of Fair Trade products outside the auditorium. A signature campaign had also been organized inside the auditorium in support of Fair Trade. Around 250 people had taken part in this programme.

The panel discussion on “**Fair Trade & Inclusive development**” was enlightened by the key note address by Prof. Anand Kumar, Sh.L.V. Saptarishi, IAS(Retd) and Co-Chairman, CNRI. Other eminent panelists were Dr. Ajay Kumar, JNU, Ms. Moon Sharma, CEO, Tara Projects And Secretary, FTF-I, Mr.Amit Vatsyayan, Oxfam, Mr.Linu Mathew Philip from CENTAD. Mr. I.Mallikarjuna, Executive Director, Fair Trade Forum-India Chaired the session. Many eminent teachers of JNU, social activists and foreign dignitaries participated in the event. Mr.O.P.Yadav and Mr.Jay Kumar coordinated the program.

Followed by this there was a big bang of Rajasthani i music and bharatanatyam performed by highly trained folk artists. The programme ended with a sumptuous dinner at the new academic cafeteria.

**Ajay Kumar, Associate Professor
Group of Adult Education, SSS**



English for Specific Purpose Workshop at the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance

The Centre for the Study of Law and Governance in collaboration with experts from the Centre for Linguistics and financial support from the Equal Opportunity Office organized a three week and three module workshop on ESP for Linguistic Empowerment of the students of JNU, from the 18 May to 4 June. Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Rector had been instrumental in providing the administrative dynamism needed to address the problem.

The workshop activity was located at the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance. Twenty five of students braved the summer heat and dismissed their desire to be home during vacation to attend this capacity building programme and twenty of them received certificates on the basis of their record of fifty

percent plus attendance and progress demonstrated in assignments and tests.

The programme was inaugurated on the 18 May by Prof. Tulsi Ram, Chairperson Equal Opportunity Office, JNU. In his motivating note to the participants and the course experts he expressed the indispensable need for such remedial courses on a regular basis for students who join JNU from various linguistically different regions of the country. The advanced teaching and research is mainly English based and this marginalizes a majority of such students. He also pointed out the need for Remedial English workshops for SC/ST/OBC students to bring them out of the linguistic challenges which they face in classroom teaching. His revelation that a huge funding is

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available at the University for organizing such remedial workshops and can be made available to such meaningful and output oriented programmes was received with great applause. He acknowledged the contribution of Prof. (Rtd., Emeritus Fellow with CES) H.C.Narang to the capacity building of linguistically challenged students of JNU for almost two decades. Dr. Lobiyal of the Computer Sciences Centre congratulated the organizers and suggested the need for looking into the problems of SC/ST/OBC students in a more compassionate manner rather than on scales of excellence and merit without capacity building opportunities to them. He expressed that the success of the university lies in the fact that it is able to create excellence where it is not simply through innovations in teaching methods and this is equally true for not just students of historically deprived sections but also all students from the economically deprived communities also irrespective of caste and religion. His radical suggestions about student-teacher communication and introducing methods which could substantially focus on inclusion rather than expulsion without compromising the need for excellence in maintaining academic standards were received with an euphoric approval in the hall.

Prof. Vaishna Narang, in her keynote address explained how language is both a product of cognition and a means to cognition, just as it is a product of human creativity as well as a means to creativity. Pursuit of knowledge is therefore dependent on the individual capacity and competence to use language for cognition and creativity. Professor Vaishna Narang further explained the planning which went into designing the relevant modules with focus on their return in the linguistic capacities of the students of JNU. One of the three modules takes care of the grammar and vocabulary building exercises, which provide the students self help strategies in enhancing their vocabulary and its appropriate, grammatical use subsequently. The other two modules were based on the notion of **mindmap** and **theme building** which are extremely useful in the use of language (English in this case) for academic writings and higher education. These two modules as explained by Professor Narang will help the students use mind map and theme building for writing a synopsis, or an abstract, a term paper or a conference paper, a journal article or to make a power point presentation.

She welcomed the non-social science students participating in the workshop as there exists an increased need for learning English for specific purpose (English for Academic Writings in this case) in every discipline, be it Life Sciences or the Environmental Sciences or Computer and System sciences and the need for this becomes more important as interdisciplinary requirements become increasingly intense in research and teaching. Prof. Amita Singh the Chairperson of CSLG suggested a collaborative and consistent effort for capacity enhancement of SC/ST/OBC students during all vacations by Chairpersons of different centres, based upon a feedback from their Student Faculty Committees. Several members of the JNU faculty who

were present expressed the urgent need to weaken the fundamental dividing line prevailing between those who are English proficient and those who are not. This would also allow a flow of new research opportunities to all students who are rich in local area knowledge which is so much needed for a vibrant research yet they remain marginalized due to their linguistic compulsions.

The three week workshop with a 36 hour of teaching divided into three specific purpose modules were taught by three regular teachers, Varalakshmi, Ritu Yadav and Garima Dalal. There were special lectures by Prof. Gita Nambissan on Communication Skills, Prof. GJV Prasad on Creative writing, Prof. Amita Singh on Synopsis writing and Prof. Vaishna Narang on Mind map for several areas was attended to in all the modules.

The valedictory session was opened by Prof. Tulsi Ram's blessings to the successful participants and at the end of his speech he invited Prof. H.C.Narang to share his experience with everyone. Prof Narang made an important contribution to the proceedings by arguing that motivation was the only catalyst for the success of the programme, and unless the student felt motivated, the teachers could not proceed. He gave several examples especially from his students like Mula Ram who have shown exemplary motivation and hard work to reach the highest levels of academic excellence. He also suggested that while teaching grammar, sentence construction should proceed in such a way that amity is promoted rather than discord. He said that values communicated in the construction of sentences should generate harmony not arouse dispositions of instantaneous violence. Prof Vaishna Narang went on to say that for 15 years erstwhile Centre for Linguistics and English had contributed to learning skills of the students of JNU, and that these were hours given over and above their mainline teaching courses. JNU students have only to contact the Centre for Linguistics, and help will be provided.

The most innovative part of the valedictory session was the interactive session led by an independent evaluator Prof Susan Visvanathan, Chairperson, Centre for Sociology, who is an avid educationist besides being a sensitive sociologist, author and community worker. She involved students in an open house discussion during which the students shared many feelings about their learning proceses such as their handicaps in understanding classroom lectures, their inability to compete due to their social and educational challenges and the apathy of subject teachers who are too overworked to attend to the specific capacity enhancement of such students. Dr. Alone shared many ideas on capacity building with students. All students who participated in this workshop appeared more vocal, less hesitant to admit their weaknesses and strategies to improve. A report on the workshop has been prepared by Prof. Susan Vishvanathan and is uploaded on the CSLG website with photographs of the interactive session. Students and faculty are encouraged to read it.

Seminar/Conference

As the session concluded Prof. Amita Singh reminded students of the World Environment Day on the 5th June (the next day) which should above all be understood as the World Justice Day for all creatures of different capacities inhabiting this planet earth. The students and faculty signed an appeal to the Vice Chancellor to help conserve the last remaining water body

'Neela Hauz' in the backyard of the university forest and rehabilitate environmental friendly

'Tongas' in JNU which have been removed from the Old Delhi area.

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

Our Publications

Book Release

Abiotic Stress Adaptation in Plants

Physiological, Molecular and Genomic Foundation

{ISBN 978-90-481-3111-2} more on <http://springer.com/978-90-481-3111-2>, Springer, Germany

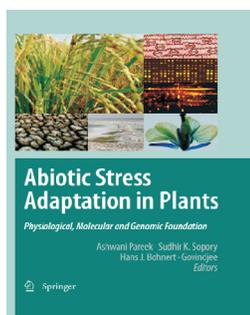
Editors

A. Pareek, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India;

S.K. Sopory, Int. Centre of Genetic Eng. & Biotechnology, New Delhi, India;

H.J. Bohnert, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, USA;

Govindjee, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, USA (Eds.)



“In the next 50 years, mankind will consume as much food as we have consumed since the beginning of agriculture 10,000 years ago”

Major problems, posing serious threats to agriculture and hence mankind, are the ever changing and unpredictable environmental factors subsumed under the term 'abiotic stresses'. Extremes of temperature at both ends of the scale, both scarcity and excess of water, or deteriorating soil or water quality due to excess ion accumulation are some of the facets of this problem. It has been estimated that, worldwide, approximately one third to one half of all irrigated lands face problems of salinity, the majority of which is in less developed, arid regions of the globe. Further, droughts that occur at

regular intervals throughout many agricultural lands have been estimated to reduce potential yield by as much as a third even in normal years. Also, climate changes are predicted, with projections for an increase in temperature and more erratic, less stable rainfall and weather patterns that could lead to an increase of drought incidents. Finally, urbanization is expected to lead to an increase in the competition for resources, in particular fresh water, between urban centers and agriculture.

The present compilation of views and finding of researchers in the area of abiotic stresses is an attempt to present a holistic view of the general principles of stress perception, signal transduction and tight regulation of gene expression. Each of these aspects has been covered under separate units with detailed chapters. Care has been taken to present a more analytical rather than descriptive account of these aspects without putting much emphasis on crops or stress type. Attempts have also been made to translate this understanding to decipher the physiological and metabolic alterations as brought in by abiotic stresses. Eventually, the last unit describes the outcome of this analysis: how stress-tolerant crop plants or model plants have been or are being raised through plant breeding and genetic engineering approaches.

Chapters in this book are presented in a text-book style; important references and suggested readings are provided at the end of each chapter. Further, authors have provided text boxes that summarize important concepts of a specific topic, and all sections summarize the pathways that describe a topic and integrate it with overall plant structure and physiology. Thus, this book will serve as a complete package in itself for students, researchers and scientists with an interest in abiotic stress response sensing and genetic and metabolic response pathways in plants under basic and applied objectives.

The book is designed for use by advanced undergraduate students, graduate students and beginning researchers in the area of stress biology, plant molecular biology, plant physiology, agriculture, biochemistry and environmental biology.

Our Publications

List of Publications

Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies

- “Bhartrihari Niti-Shatakam” published by Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, 2009, C. Upender Rao

Sports Office

- “Physical Fitness and Training in Sports,” Sports Publication, New Delhi, 2010, Vikram Singh, JNU and Dr. O.P. Bhadana.

Alumni Corner

An Interview with JNU Alumnus Mr. K.S. Kumar, Head of Global Operations, Sutherland Global Services.

Bhoomika: Tell us something about your association with JNU.

Mr. Kumar: I joined the university in 1975/76 and I did M.A. in Sociology.

Bhoomika: What trajectory did your career follow once you left JNU?

Mr. Kumar: I was on “earning while you were learning” mode even when I was in university. I started with a sales job with a small publishing firm and later joined a detergent manufacturing company who were setting their manufacturing unit out of Haryana. I was able to work with high level of ambiguity and in constantly evolving environments. I headed up the International division of a mini-steel plant as the president in 1982 and later on branched out into hospitality and facilities management as an entrepreneur and setting up operations across India/Middle east/USA. Today I am the global head of operations for a BPO, Sutherland is one of the top five BPOs in India. It is also a major outsourcing company in the global market. We have clients among Fortune 500 companies like Microsoft, e-Bay, Norton, some banking firms, etc.

We provide services for banking, insurance and technical support. These huge companies trust us with their most valued assets i.e. their customers both at the enterprise level and the consumer level. We are committed to making a difference in the live of the young people who are associated with us.

Bhoomika: What differences did you find between the entrepreneurial experience and the academic one?

Mr. Kumar: Well, taking risk, working in ambiguity, leading from the front and keeping up the momentum with a team driven by passion is the key to business. We tend to get into a mode of paralysis through analysis' in the academic world without a sense of urgency for action.

Bhoomika: Did any of your JNU friends get involved in any other entrepreneurial project? Or was it only you who plunged into this field?

Mr. Kumar: I was alone from the university. I don't think there were many entrepreneurs who came out of the academic world at

that time.

Bhoomika: How has JNU shaped your perception in relation to your profession? Do you feel that JNU has instilled some values in you that make you stand out?

Mr. Kumar: Clearly the thinking and understanding of the larger picture has been part of all project-this comes from the orientation and thought leadership encouraged from the JNU days. We always think of the society and the larger impact of what we do.

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

Mr. Kumar: It would be principles on which my growth is based. I have no doubt that in my field I stand for ethics and a sense of responsibility to the world at large and to the people I work with. I am certain that these qualities and this commitment will make me stand tall one day. This is going to take me a long way. I don't look at short term success by being street smart. The ethical standards are bound to be high when I decided to undertake something. Before taking any major business decision. I also ponder over the question as to how all money and business is going to help my country. I think this consciousness comes from the fact that I have been part of a great institution like JNU.

Bhoomika: Which aspect of JNU did you like the most?

Mr. Kumar: The life style and culture-the way of being where questioning and challenging everything was always a given. All of our discussions were positively turbulent and we never took it personally.

Bhoomika: What message would you like to give to the JNU student?

Mr. Kumar: Let academics not be an end in itself-please think how who we are being and what we do in theory can be put in practice in the Immediate future to impact the world we live in. We need your brilliance now to impact the world. And of course, continue to learn and develop a culture of openness to learning all around you.

Our Scholars

List of scholars who have been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D), Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) and Master of Technology (M. Tech). 1.04.2009 to 29.04.2009. The name of the scholar is followed by the title of the thesis/dissertation and the name of the Supervisor.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D)

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi

Ms. Kosalai Kaliappan, "Identification and Characterization of Host Factors, Especially Origin Recognition Complex and Rad54 Proteins, and Elucidation of Their Functional Roles in Geminiviral DNA Replication", Dr. Sunil K. Mukherjee

Ms. Rachana Hora, "Structural and Functional Studies on Conserved Cytoplasmic Domains of Plasmodium Falciparum Erythrocyte Membrane Protein 1 (PfEMP1) Family", Dr. Amit Sharma

Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad

Mr. Amit Das, "Characterization of Virulence Associated Functions of A Rice Pathogen: Studies on Adhensin- Like Functions", Dr. Ramesh V. Sonti

Mr. A. Vanniarajan, Mitochondrial DNA Variations and Diseases in India Population", Dr. K Thangaraj and Dr. Lalji Singh

Master of Philosophy (M. Phil)

School of Social Sciences

Centre for Philosophy

Ms. Priyanka Mishra, "The Idea of Death in Heidegger's Being and time", Dr. Bhagat Oinam

Centre for the Study of Social Systems

Mr. Rakesh Kumar Patel, "Representation of Indian

Diaspora in Popular Hindi Cinema: A Sociological Study", Dr. Vivek Kumar

Mr. Jitendra Ram, "Changing Status of Dalits in Post-Independent Bihar", Prof Nandu Ram

Mr. Chakho Kaya Mao, "Education and Empowerment: A Study of Manipur Women", Prof. Ehsanul Haq

Ms. Niharika Mohapatra, "Towards A Sociology of Disasters in Contemporary India: A Study of Tsunami and Super Cyclone", Prof. S. S. Jodhka

Centre for the Study of Regional Development

Mr. Jitendar Singh Bika, "Determinants and Social Characteristics of Differently abled Population in India", Dr. B. Zutshi

Mr. Suraj Bhan Garhwal, "Social Inequities in Educational Attainments in India: A Spatial Analysis", Dr. Sachidanand Sinha

Ms. Ayusmati Das, "Maternal Health Care Utilization in India: Its Patterns, Determinants and Impacts", Prof. Aslam Mahmood

Mr. Vinoth Raja A., "Determinants of Farmer's Suicide: A Case Study of Anantpur District of Andhra Pradesh", "Dr. B. Zutshi

Mohd Tufail, "Internal Migration and Growth of Urbanization in India 2001: A State Level Analysis", Prof. Aslam Mahmood

Mr. Vijay Kumar, "Children's Economic Activities: A Spatio-Temporal Analysis", Dr. B. Zutshi

Ms. Moutushi Majumder, "A Comparative Study of the Prevalence of Domestic Violence in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Tamilnadu Based on NFHS-III (2005 - 2006)", Prof. M. D. Vemuri

Obituary



Dr. (Mrs) Jyotisar Sharma, Centre of Indian Languages, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies passed away on 3 June, 2010



Professor Mohamad Hasan, an eminent Urdu scholar, progressive thinker, Professor Emeritus and former Chairperson of Centre of Indian Languages, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi passed away recently, he was 84.

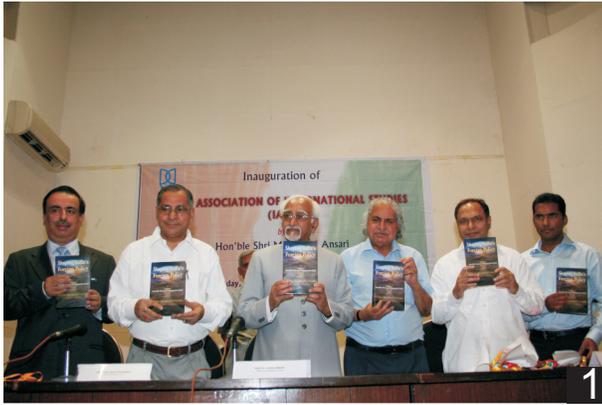
Prof. Mohamed Hasan joined JNU in 1974, in the early days of setting up of Centre of Indian Languages and was the center's second Chairperson from 1977 to 1980, and later from 1985 to 1986, after Prof. Namvar Singh. He was author and editor of nearly 75 books in Urdu and English. He was a most respected critic of Urdu,

apart from being novelist and play Wright. He is known for his books on Urdu poets Ghalib and Iqbal. He also wrote history of Hindi literature in Urdu. He edited a prominent literary quarterly 'Asri Adab' in Urdu. After his retirement, JNU made him Professor Emeritus for life, an honor conferred on very few faculty members of JNU.

Condolence meeting was chaired by Dean School of Languages, literature and Culture Studies, Prof. Sankar Basu. Prof. Chaman Lal, Chairperson, Centre of Indian languages expressed deep sorrow at the loss of this great personality of not only JNU or Urdu literature, but of Indian literature as a whole. Dr. Anwar Pasha also spoke. Meeting was attended by large number of scholars and students, including Prof. Namvar Singh, Kedar Nath Singh and Prof. Manager Pandey among others.

We extend our condolences to the bereaved families.

Photo Gallery



1. Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Sh. Mohammad Hamid Ansari inaugurated the Indian Association of International Studies (IAIS) at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Photo shows Hon'ble Vice-President, releasing a book "Shaping India's Foreign Policy : People, Politics and Places" during the inaugural session.
2. In an endeavour to provide an exclusive, affordable and dedicated telecommunication network to the students of JNU, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with JNU. Photo shows Mr. Sachin Pilot, Minister for Communications & Information Technology alongwith Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor during the signing of MoU between MTNL and JNU.
3. Centre for South, Central, South-East and South-West Pacific Studies, School of International Studies organized an International Seminar on "Xinjiang in the 21st Century". A group photograph of the participants during the seminar.
4. Greek Chair, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies & Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies organised a three day Seminar on "Greece Beyond Greece". Photo shows (from left) Prof. Sankar Basu, Prof. Kapila Vatsyani, Prof. G. C. Pandey, Mr. Stavros Lykides, Greece Ambassador, Dr. U.P. Arora and Dr. Hari Ram Mishra.
5. Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies organized an International Seminar "The Fertile Crescent, Great Powers and India". A group photograph of the participants during the seminar.
6. Centre of Social Medicine & Community Health, School of Social Sciences organized the Witness Seminar on "Maternal Care in India" on 7 April, 2010. Photo shows Prof. Elizabeth Tonsey, UK addressing the participants, also seen are Prof. Rama Baru (centre) and Prof. David Osrin (left).



7. The Group of Adult Education, School of Social Sciences in collaboration with Fair Trade Forum India, Delhi organised a seminar “A Dialogue on Fair Trade and Inclusive Development” on 8 May, 2010. Photo shows (from left) Linn Mathew, L V Saptharishi, Mallikarjuna, India, Prof. Anand Kumar and Amit Vatsayana.
8. School of International Studies organised a seminar on “The Challenge of Nuclear Security” on 13 May, 2010. Photo Shows (from left) Prof. Yashpal, Chancellor, Prof. K. Subramaniam, Prof. Yogesh Tyagi, Dean, SIS and Prof. Amitabh Mattoo.
9. Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, JNU organised a workshop for JNU Researchers “English for Capacity Building through Linguistic Empowerment” for 18 May to 4 June, 2010. Photo shows (from left) Prof. Amita Singh, Prof. H.C. Narang, Prof. Tulsi Ram and Prof. Vaishna Narang.
10. The School of Life Sciences organised a function on the occasion of World Environment day on 1 June, 2010. Photo shows Magasaysay award winner, Shri Rajendra Singh, Waterman of India, addressing the participants.



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

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