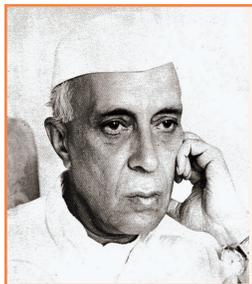




Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



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.



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. Sanjay Puri Chairperson, Special Centre for Nano Sciences



Wafa: When did your association with JNU begin?

Sanjay Puri: I finished my PhD in 1987 from the University of Illinois, USA. Shortly thereafter, I joined the School of Physical Sciences (SPS) in JNU. At that time it was a nascent department, and we now have almost 25 years of growth. In the

initial stages, SPS specialized in the kind of physics that I do, which is basically Non-equilibrium Statistical Physics. It was an ideal opportunity for me to come back to India and have a tenured job, and I've been here ever since. Of course, I still travel frequently.

Lakshmi: Tell us a little bit about the new nano-science Centre that you are working on beginning.

Sanjay Puri: In the middle of 2010, I was appointed as the Chairperson of the Special Centre of Nano Sciences (SCNS). As you would know from reading various articles and news reports, there's been a huge amount of interest in making and using machines, materials, medicines, etc. at microscopic length- and time-scales. There's been great research interest in harnessing activity at the nano-scale for scientific and technological benefits. The SCNS will bring together people from Physics, Chemistry, Life Sciences, etc. with distinct science interests but with a common theme, i.e., they would like to work at the nano-scale. There are many different and exciting things happening all over the world in this area and one hopes that we can have a similar world-class centre in JNU. We have started looking for faculty and we've been able to identify a few potential candidates. The most important part of any department or centre is the faculty. Once the recruitment process starts going, hopefully we'll be able to get a few excellent faculty in SCNS. The people come first and after that it's infrastructural facilities and instruments and so on.

Wafa: How far along is the Centre in terms of operation and what can we see in the near future?

Sanjay Puri: The Centre is already operational. We have appointed a visiting professor recently, a very talented person. I also have 10-15 very attractive applications from people with diverse scientific backgrounds. I hope the new Vice-Chancellor

will hold selections for our centre on an urgent basis, so that we have people in place by the end of 2011. The advertisements have not gone out yet -- from the time of advertisements going out to people joining SCNS, we are looking at a minimum of 6-8 months. In parallel, we are trying to bring in adjunct faculty from other JNU schools and centres, because this is a strongly interdisciplinary kind of area.

Lakshmi: What are your immediate goals?

Sanjay Puri: I think my immediate goal would be to have four or five very good faculty members in place. It would be nice to have a senior individual, but usually it is hard to get people to move at a senior level. With 4-5 faculty members in place, we can have a pre-Ph.D. teaching programme and a Ph.D. in Nano Sciences. On a longer time-scale, once 8-10 faculty members are in place, then we could think of going for a Masters' degree. In the initial stages, I would like the colleagues who come to focus on building up research activities and programs.

Wafa: Are there a lot of similar centres in India?

Sanjay Puri: There are a few. The Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore has one, and there are a few other top places that have started nano-science programmes. We've been a little late getting into the act but we're into it now. I hope that, with JNU being such an attractive place, we'll be able to get good faculty and support.

Lakshmi: On a somewhat unrelated note, what can you say about your experience in JNU in the time you've spent here?

Sanjay Puri: I feel it's been an excellent experience. I've been very happy being in JNU and my 20 odd years have been highly productive and fruitful. In this period, 10 Ph.D. students have finished their theses under my guidance. I know some people grumble about JNU, and the fact is that it's fashionable to grumble! But I am always optimistic. The JNU blend of teaching, intense research and total academic freedom has factored very nicely into my professional activities, so for me it's been a very positive experience.

Wafa: Any particular memory that you have that stands out?

Sanjay Puri: My absolutely favourite memory is of walking on campus. I love taking long walks on campus, just exploring it. The JNU campus is really very beautiful. When I first came

In conversation with.....

here 20 years ago it was much wilder. Now there are many more buildings, but then “development” does have to take place, I suppose! But there are still many beautiful spots on campus that I like exploring.

I think the other aspect which has been really nice is that JNU life is very vibrant. It's a pleasure to have such distinguished colleagues in humanities, languages, literature, etc., apart from those in science. At a science institute, I think I would have lost out by not interacting with extremely bright people from various disciplines. For me, being at JNU has been very pleasant.

Lakshmi: And to wrap up, what message do you have to the JNU community?

Sanjay Puri: We're primarily a research institution; and have mainly Masters' and Ph.D. programmes. What I would like to say to the students is that, regardless of what discipline or stream of research you've gone into, treat it as fun. In my own research career, I have been “working” very hard for the last twenty-five or thirty years now. But it doesn't seem like work at all because I enjoy it so much! So just treat your research as fun, enjoy it thoroughly, and other things will flow naturally. Don't get too tense about when your thesis is going to finish, or when a publication is going to come out, etc. All that will happen in due course when you approach your work with the right attitude.

Movement

New Dean/Chairperson/Proctor

- ◆ Prof. R. N. Menon as Dean, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies
- ◆ Prof. Manu Mittal as Chairperson, Centre of Russian Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies
- ◆ Dr. Neera Kongari, Centre for Japanese, Korean and North East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies has been re-appointed as Proctor.

Administration

- ◆ Shri Ajay Kumar Gupta, Junior Engineer (Elect.) Engineering Branch
- ◆ Smt. Prempati Devi, Office Attendant, Engineering Branch
- ◆ Smt. Manju Verma, Office Attendant, IHA
- ◆ Smt. Kusum Devi, Helper Mess, IHA
- ◆ Smt. Geeta Dangj, Helper Mess, IHA

Retirements/Resignations

- ◆ Dr. Kapilanjjan Krishan, Assistant Professor, School of Physical Sciences
- ◆ Prof. Rowena Teresa Robinson, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences
- ◆ Prof. Shashiprabha Kumar, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies

- ◆ Shri K.L. Arora, Personal Assistant, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences
- ◆ Smt. Saroja Appu, Section Officer, Finance & Accounts Department
- ◆ Smt. A. Vasantha, Senior Assistant, Project Finance Cell, Finance & Accounts Department
- ◆ Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, Professional Assistant, Central Library
- ◆ Shri Raj Mani, Professional Assistant, Central Library
- ◆ Shri V.P. Gupta, Professional Assistant, Central Library
- ◆ Smt. Neena Kapoor, Assistant Librarian, Central Library
- ◆ Shri Ganga Sharan, Telephone Operator, Telephone Cell
- ◆ Shri Surinder Kumar Bhargwa, A.C. Operator, Engineering Branch
- ◆ Shri Alok Banerjee, A.C. Operator, Engineering Branch
- ◆ Shri Lakhmi Chand, Security Guard, Security Branch
- ◆ Shri Dhan Bahadur Rana, Security Guard, Security Branch
- ◆ Shri Karan Singh, Havaldar, Security Branch
- ◆ Sh. Ganesh Raosaheb Jagtap, Stenographer, Administration Branch

Achievements/Awards



◆ **Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli**, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies has been conferred the “K. Subramanyam Award” by the Defence Minister of India, Sh. A.K. Antony. This award was instituted by Dr. Swadesh Rana, an alumni of SIS by donating a corpus for an annual award which is conferred each year, on an Indian scholar, journalist or analyst who has made outstanding contribution in the area of strategic and security studies.



◆ **Prof. Saumitra Mukherjee**, School of Environmental Sciences presented an invited paper on “Remote sensing Applications in Groundwater Management in view of climate change” in the National Symposium on “Climate Change-Research, Awareness and Capacity Building” in the 80th Annual Session of the National Academy of Sciences, India at Jaipur National University, from 2-4 December 2010. He also presented an invited paper on “Influence of Climate Change on Water Resources” in a National workshop on “Climate Change and its Impacts on Water Resources-Adaptation Issues” organized by Punjab University, Chandigarh from 23-24 November 2010. The Workshop was sponsored by Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water resources, Ministry of Earth Sciences, DST, WAPCOS and ONGC.



◆ **Dr. B. R. Deepak**, Centre of Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, School of language, Literature & Culture Studies was invited in the capacity of one of the leading China experts in the country during the discussions on India-China relations; with a select group of academicians, with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao held on 17 December, 2010. Dr. Deepak is the only researcher in the country who has delved into the studies of India-China relations during the freedom struggle, referring to the original classical as well as standard Chinese sources in China as a Nehru Fellow. During the discussions with the Chinese Premier, Dr. Deepak emphasized that civilizational as well as linkages established during the freedom struggle could do away with some of the mistrust between the two nations, and suggested that these linkages should be incorporated in the school text books of our two countries, so as a better understanding is developed between the two nations. During the discussion Premier Wen also expressed his views on India-China civilizational contacts and stressed the importance of cultural and youth exchanges in boosting the China-India strategic and cooperative partnership. He said that China and India, two open and lenient peoples with self motivation, have cultivated their brilliant civilizations, and forged friendship and jointly promoted the advancement of human kind through exchanges.

Campus Activities

Green Diwali

The will to bring in positive changes requires leadership quality and calls for innovation. This is what was witnessed, when Mahi-Mandavi hostel celebrated Green Diwali this year on November 5, 2010. The festival started in the morning with a plantation drive, spanning over beautification of the hostel premises and ended in the least amount of use of crackers in the University. The theme of the festival – go green – was initiated and led by the young Hostel-President, Mr. Phakharuddin Ansari and the members of his Committee. This move had already seen a huge success on the occasion of the Independence Day, August 15, 2010. The festive occasion was



Campus Activities

graced by the august presence of the Dean of Students Welfare and the Registrar of the University, Prof. V. K. Jain. He inaugurated the event and addressed a massive audience of the Residents, Wardens and other dignitaries. The first among over 150 saplings covering a range of fruits, flowers and shade was planted by the Dean himself, which was then followed by the Senior Warden of the Hostel, Mr. Ravikesh, other present dignitaries, volunteers and residents. The Dean congratulated the Hostel and its President for being the first in JNU to take

such an Eco-friendly initiative and promised to develop the area in front of the Hostel into a beautiful park, work on which has already started. This move saw its gratification on the following November 14, 2010 when the first ever Bicycle Rally of JNU was successfully organized.

**Chandrika Kumar, Research Scholar
Centre for German Studies, SLL&CS**

'First JNU Cycle Rally' to Spread Environmental Awareness



The idea of organizing a cycle rally in the University was conceived by Prof. V K Jain, Registrar and Dean of Students Welfare and Dr. Abhijit Karkun, Professor at the Centre for French and Francophone Studies (CFFS) as an initiative to promote environmental concern in the university community. The First JNU Cycle Rally was also envisioned as a launch pad for the JNU Eco-Club, which would further the environmental cause by organizing successive cycle rallies, tree plantation drives, cleanliness drives at public places in and around the campus. Md. Phakruddin Ansari, an MA student at the CFFS and President of Mahi-Mandvi Hostel, took on the role of coordinating and organizing the event. The office of the Dean of Students and the university Sports Office were instrumental in providing financial support for the rally. Mr. Ansari could also enlist the support of the presidents of all the student hostels on campus in organizing the event.

On November 14, 2010 around two hundred cyclists, young and old, gathered in front of the Administrative Block of this university to participate in the First JNU Cycle Rally. Before the start of the rally, the JNU Eco-Club was officially inaugurated

by Prof. V K Jain, who took out precious time from his busy schedule to attend the event. Prof. Sachidanand Sinha, Associate Dean of Students, was also present. Besides university students, a considerable number of children of the non-teaching staff were also among those who enthusiastically took part in the rally. Dr. Abhijit Karkun himself, who also offered invaluable logistical assistance, joined in the pedal-pushing endeavour. Another member of the JNU teaching staff, Dr. Thomas Schwarz, a DAAD visiting lecturer at the Centre of German Studies who is a regular cyclist, also took out time to participate in the rally. The cyclists had to cover a distance of about eight kilometers proceeding through the Dakshinapuram residential area and passing the Old Transit House, Ganga Dhaba, Kendriya Vidyalaya, the hostels Tapti, Mahi-Mandavi, Lohit, Chandrabhaga, Koyna to come back to the Administrative Block. The participants shouted the slogans like "Let's Go Green, Go for a Green Campus". Major P K Sangwan, the Chief Security Officer of the University, and his team of security personnel played an important role in managing the traffic on the route to be taken by the cyclists. They were presented with a certificate of participation.

The success of the First JNU Cycle Rally was evident in the wide-scale participation it saw. Its significance lies in its promise to be a potent vehicle of spreading environmental awareness among university communities in a time when environmental pollution and its associated dangers pose a serious threat to a sustainable and healthy life.

**Md Phakruddin Ansari, Athletics Convener,
JNU Sports Office and
Omkar Joshi, Research Scholar
Centre for German Studies, SLL&CS**

Seminar/Conference

Workshop on "E-learning and Multimedia for Education"

The DIT sponsored projects at the Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University organized a one day workshop on "E-learning and Multimedia for Education" on November 3, 2010. The inaugural session was chaired by Chairperson, Prof. Sankar Basu. Dr. Girish Nath Jha introduced the theme of the workshop presenting the computational linguistics and e-learning related developments done at the Centre. Dr. Andrew Lynn of Communication and Information Service, JNU presented the Shiksha portal of JNU. Prof. Vaishna Narang, of SLL&CS gave the inaugural address and Dr. Maureen P. Hall from University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, USA gave the keynote speech.

The workshop had five sessions including the inaugural session. The secondary and senior secondary school teachers from some Delhi schools were also invited. Educationists, Sanskritist e-learning experts gave talk and presentations. The last (fifth) session was for industry participants who are working on e-learning and content development. Among these, Educomp, Adobe India and Chinh India Foundation presented their work on different topics in the area of e-learning and multimedia.

**Girish Nath Jha, Associate Professor,
Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies**

Two Day International Seminar on "The Literary and Cultural Legacy of India and Oman"

The Centre of Arabic and African Studies (CAAS) SLL&CS, organized an International Seminar on "The Literary and Cultural Legacy of India and Oman" on November 8-9, 2010. The basic aim and objective of the seminar was to trace and unravel the commonalities reflected in the literary and cultural milieu and ethos of both the countries and explore the avenues and to foster fast growing socio-cultural relations between the two countries. Keeping this in view, the Centre also decided on this occasion, to commemorate the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Oman more than five decades back. The programme was inaugurated on November 8, 2010 at 11:00 at the auditorium of School of Social Sciences and the chief speaker of the inaugural function was Prof. Zubair Farooqi ex-head of Department of Arabic, JMI, New Delhi, who delivered the key-note address in which he amply unfolded the contribution of Indian Scholars in the field of Arabic language

and literature. Before the key-note address, Dr. Mujeebur Rahman of the CAAS, JNU, welcomed the honorable guests particularly H.E. Humaid Bin Ali Al-Manni, the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman and H.E.Sami Al-Sulaiman the ambassador of Kuwait, Prof. Zubair Farooqi, Prof. Abdul Wadood Azhar, ex-Dean SLL&CS and Prof. Sankar Basu, the present Dean of SLL& CS. After the welcome address Prof. M. Aslam Islahi, the Director of the seminar got the audience abreast with the basic theme and idea of the Seminar and elaborated the fact that the relation between Oman and India goes back to time immemorial. H.E. Humaid Bin Ali Al-Maani who participated in the seminar as Chief Guest delivered his speech in Arabic stressing the significance of diplomatic relation and bilateral ties between Oman and India and forcefully averred that our relations with India are deep rooted and time tested.

On this occasion, H.E. Sami Sulaiman, the ambassador of Kuwait enlightened the audience with the ever growing diplomatic relation of Kuwait with India. After that, Prof. Abdul Wadood Azhar ex-Dean SLL&CS addressed the gathering and shared with them his experiences while teaching in J.N.U. He expressed his happiness over seeing an Arab ambassador for the first time among the students and scholars learning Arabic in J.N.U. After Prof. Azhar the present Dean, Prof. Sankar Basu delivered his presidential remarks in which he expressed his thanks to the organizers of the seminar who gave him an opportunity to highlight the significance of foreign languages in the context of present global scenario.



Seminar/Conference

Before concluding his remarks, the Dean read the letter of regret sent by Mr. Sultan Ahamd, the hon'ble minister of State for Tourism, Government of India. In the letter, the hon'able minister expressed his inability to attend the programme because of his hectic schedule related to the American President Barak Obama's visit to India. In his letter however, he expressed the hope that the "present international seminar will surely help us to further improve our understanding of the beautiful relationship that people of India and Oman shared for decades and will lead to more people to people contact".

In addition to the inaugural session there were three more active business sessions of seminar in which more than 25 prominent Arabic scholars from India and Oman presented their valuable papers which roused the interest of the august gathering in the literary and cultural heritage of both the countries.

In the valedictory session, recommendations and suggestions prepared and tailored by the seminar committee consisting of some eminent scholars and academicians were read in Arabic

by the seminar director. A few of these suggestions are as follows

- a) To explore avenues and create opportunities for the promotion of Arabic language and literature in India.
- b) To arrange scholarship and other incentives for students and scholars pursuing Arabic programmes in different Indian colleges and universities.
- c) To strive for the exchange of visiting faculty between Oman and India
- e) To explore the possibility of Arabic student's trips to Arab countries especially during summer or winter vacations.
- h) To organize seminars, conferences and symposia on topics related to Arabic studies and Arab culture.
- I) To make arrangements for training the teachers engaged in imparting the knowledge of Arabic in different Indian colleges and academic institutions.

**Aslam Islahi, Chairperson,
Centre of Arabic and African Studies, SLLCS**

Panel Discussion "Understanding Indian Society Today: Challenges & Opportunities"

"Understanding Indian Society Today: Challenges & Opportunities" was the theme of the panel discussion organised as part of the Alumni Week during November 15-20, 2010. In the opening remarks, the panel moderator Prof. Anand Kumar underlined the growing disconnect between democracy, development and governance in India in the recent years. The post Mandal dynamics of social changes has created new emphasis about the need of social justice. Similarly religion based political mobilization around Mandir-Masjid disputes has created new crisis about the constitutional commitments for secularism as well as protection of dignity of the minorities. The market centric shift in our economic policies has decentred the poor and poverty. These aspects of our national scenario need to be recognized.

Dr. Rizwan Qaisar (Historian) presented an analysis of the problems faced by the Muslims in their day to-day life as there is no solution to their voicelessness in the political and economic sphere. He suggested the need of time bound programme for education and employment among the minorities as the first priority of our policy makers to make secularism strong.

Dr. Vivek Kumar (Sociologist) discussed the major trends among the Dalits in the context of democracy and development.

According to him there are seven dimensions of growing dalit assertion and movement in India as the result of social changes and political mobilization. These emerging dimensions include the first one is socio-religious reform movement; second is political empowerment through different political parties which began with ILP, SCF and RPI and continuous with BSP. The third movement is of Dalit employees like BAMCEF. Literary and creative writing movement comes fourth. Dalit women and NGO movement is fifth and sixth type respectively. The Diaspora is seventh in the string of Dalit assertion.

Dr. Ranjana Kumari (Political Scientist) participating in the panel discussion emphasized the need to check growing violence against women in domestic and public spheres. It includes, female foeticide, wife beating, eve-teasing and various forms of sexual harassment. We cannot put an end to this shameful situation unless there is sharing of power between men and women from family to parliament 33% reservation in parliament will be one of the most effective ways of giving respect to women in India.

**Anand Kumar, Professor &
Chief Advisor, Alumni Affairs**

Seminar/Conference

Seminar on Globalization and Emerging Countries

A panel discussion with the theme, "Globalization and Emerging Countries" was held on 15 November 2010 as a part of Jawaharlal Nehru University Alumni Association Seminar Series. Participating in the panel discussion were the faculty members of the School of International Studies: Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Dr. H.S. Prabhakar and Prof. S.N. Malakar. The programme was chaired by Prof. Christopher S. Raj of the Center for American Studies, now the Dean, SIS and concluding remarks were delivered by Prof. K.P. Vijjalaxmi.

Globalization process unleashed liberally capital, technology and labor beyond national borders. The process helped consolidation of corporate financial assets and wealth at their respective corporate headquarters, be it American, European or Japanese. Economic liberalization in China and India also resulted in deregulation greatly. Transfer of technology, including military technology, resulted in prosperity in many developing countries, though prosperity per say was confined to urban centers. Impact of the process of globalization on business was positive and impact on agriculture and rural economy was negative. Positive impact improved the national image and GDP of both China and India whereas negative

impact on agriculture impacted on food security. Result was food insecurity in a sense.

Security and defense related implications of globalization, advancing American influence on Asia Pacific Region, including India and China, were in detail explained by Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra whereas Prof. S. N. Malakar explained the inner details of political and social impact of globalization as relating to African Continent with specific reference to a few countries. Similarly, globalization and situations in East Asian Countries as dominated by Japan and China were narrated by Dr. H.S. Prabhakar with specific reference to technology transfer, industrialization, business expansions and export led growth resulting in race for political space as reflected in ASEAN and East Asian Community.

Prof. K.P. Vijjalaxmi while concluding the panel discussion mentioned that such a broad theme as 'Globalization' needs to be continuously discussed.

**Abhay Kumar, Research Scholar,
Centre for East Asian Studies, SIS**

Panel discussion on "Science, Technology & Education"

A Panel discussion with the theme, "Science, Technology & Education" was held on 16 November 2010 as a part of Jawaharlal Nehru University Alumni Association Seminar Series. The programme was chaired by Prof. Neera Bhalla Sarin, School of Life Sciences and the lectures were delivered by Dr. Narender Singh Yadav, Biochemical Sciences and Engineering, CR&D, Du Pont, Wilmington and Dr. Jatinder Peters, Director, GM (HR) and Head Coordination, ONGC, New Delhi.

The focus of the talk delivered by Dr. N.S. Yadav was about the results of "Genetic Engineering of Yeast to Produce Heart-Healthy Mega three Oil" which has resulted into several new products with great health benefits. As the human system does not have the capacity to produce some of the acids in sufficient amount, they must be supplied in our diets. The current major source of omega-3 fatty acid is fish oil. Concerns over the quality and sustainability of the fish oil supply have generated interest in alternative sources for them. According to Dr. Yadav a clean and sustainable source of omega-3 fatty acid has been identified using a omega fatty oil engineered strain of the oleaginous yeast – *Yarrowia lipolytica*. The presentation of Prof. Yadav generated a number of questions from the audience. Prof. Yadav in his response acknowledged

the contribution of learning at JNU in his M.Phil. days in his academic journey which includes more than 40 patents so far.

The topic of the talk of Dr. Jitender Peters was related with her change of career after higher studies in Life Sciences in JNU. According to her she became interested in the system organizational human resource development after a few years as Life Scientist and decided to pursue specialization in organizational management and human relations in complex organizations. She found much support from her science background in evolving into an expert of social scientific theories and practices which got her the responsibility of becoming Director of Human Resource Development Programme of one of the Navaratna companies of India. She was happy that the JNU educational culture enabled her to have a wide awareness and interest beyond her dissertation topic.

This was attended by faculty members and research scholars of JNU.

Prof. Anand Kumar thanked the speakers, Chair and the audience on behalf of AAJ.

**Prof. Neera Bhalla Sareen,
Professor, School of Life Sciences**

वर्तमान समय में साहित्य और संस्कृति पर संगोष्ठी

19 नवम्बर 2010 को 'वर्तमान समय में साहित्य और संस्कृति' नामक विषय पर 'स्कूल ऑफ लैंग्वेज एण्ड लिटरेचर' के कमेटी रूम में व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया गया। वक्ता के रूप में हेमंत जोशी, सुभाष शर्मा, कैसर शमीम, वी.के. कार्तिका सभागार में मौजूद थे। कार्यक्रम का संचालन डॉ. देवेन्द्र कुमार चौबे (एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर: भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र) ने किया था। कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत डॉ. देवेन्द्र चौबे ने अतिथियों के स्वागत भाषण से किया। पहले वक्ता के रूप में हेमंत जोशी ने 'वर्तमान समय में साहित्य और संस्कृति' के साथ 'मीडिया' को रखकर अपना वक्तव्य दिया। उनका मानना था कि मीडिया के बिना हम संस्कृति पर बात नहीं कर सकते। वे भाषा के हाइब्रिडाइजेशन को भी ठीक मानते हैं, वे कहते हैं कि हम विशेष प्रकार के शुद्धतावादी दिमाग से न चलें। भाषा के इस व्यवहार को स्वीकार करें।

दूसरे वक्ता के रूप में उर्मिलेश जी ने समाज, साहित्य और संस्कृति सबको एक दूसरे से जुड़ा बताया। उन्होंने वर्चस्व की संस्कृति की बात की, जिस पर नोम चोमस्की का बहुत काम है। वे कहते हैं कि वर्चस्व की संस्कृति ने साहित्य और मीडिया दोनों को कमतर किया। उन्होंने ये भी कहा कि आम लोग साहित्य, सभ्यता, संस्कृति की इन व्याख्याओं को नहीं समझते, उनके लिए रोटी का सवाल महत्वपूर्ण है। इन सबको समाज से जोड़ना चाहिए। सिद्धान्त और व्यवहार में जो गैप आ गया है, उसको भरने की जरूरत है और इस गैप को भरने के लिए एक नई संस्कृति और सभ्यता की जरूरत है।



अगली वक्ता के रूप में वी.के. कार्तिका ने हिन्दी में घट रहे पाठक वर्ग पर चिंता जताई। उसके बाद सुभाष शर्मा ने अपना वक्तव्य दिया। उन्होंने बताया कि संस्कृति को उन्नत करने में मीडिया और साहित्य की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है। अखबारों में, मीडिया में साहित्य की जगह खत्म कर दी गई है, जो कि देश की उन्नति में बाधक है। अन्तिम वक्ता के रूप में कैसर शमीम जी ने 'अल्फाबेट' पर बात की। इसके बाद छात्रों ने वक्ताओं से विचारोत्तेजक सवाल-जवाब किए। अंत में डॉ. देवेन्द्र कुमार चौबे ने सभी वक्ताओं और छात्रों का धन्यवाद ज्ञापन करते हुए कार्यक्रम का समापन किया।

अजय कुमार यादव
शोध छात्र, भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र

Lecture on "Problems of Translation and Discourse Analysis"

Centre for Linguistics organised three lectures by H.S. Gill, Professor Emeritus, JNU, in November, 2010. The title of the series of lectures was: 'Problems of Translation and Discourse Analysis.'

In the first of the lectures Professor Gill, presented his theoretical framework for analyzing literary discourses. According to him, the linear 'text' – of literature, painting or music – is only the perceptually available and surface manifestation of a more complex 'discourse' that is immanent and perceptually non-manifest. It is at this latter level, the tensions and 'contradictions' between an author's (or readers') inner intellectual and emotional dispositions and the linear and discrete order of the form of the text come into play. These tensions and contradictions, as far as the individuals involved in the creative process are concerned, may be conscious or unconscious. As a result of these tensions, even when an author's text is filled with words, phrases and sentences, or colours, lines or sounds, depending on the specific artistic medium, the immanent and invisible discourse would be at variance with what is the overtly articulated. The immanent discourse, in this manner, may remain secret, hidden or

undisclosed, and it becomes the task of the reader, critic or the analyst to work through what is inadequately manifest, and constitute the 'author's' discourse in his or her own terms. Professor Gill compared this process with what happens in the context of a game of chess, where one is not able to determine from the surface moves what exactly is going on at the level of the immanent discourse that remains invisible in it. This can be interpreted only by an expert in the game of chess, who can be thus compared to a competent reader or analyst of literature or art.

In the second lecture, Gill presented the philosophical basis of the semiotics of the creative process that he developed during his long career of teaching and research. He referred to the works of several French philosophers including Michel Foucault, Jean-Paul Sartre, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Etienne de Condillac, and more importantly the 12th century theologian-philosopher Pierre Abélard. The creative process in language, literature and art, according to Gill, moves from the given word to the concept and then back to the word that is expressed in the text. The 'concept' in this sense is nothing but the singular 'idea' which is specific to the author situated in his or her

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context, and is not generalisable. Thus every creative text is the manifestation of some existential experience that is specific to an individual. In the process of reading a text this process is somewhat repeated, and therefore the reader's meaning is also the result of an interaction between the text and the specific existential experience of the reader himself. That is why there can never be a general reading a text. That is also why, once a text is published, the author can be more or less ignored, and the author can never really understand his her own text.

But, at the same time, Gill's third lecture reminded the audience, one cannot totally reduce or ignore the author's existential meaning that is immanently present amidst the contradictory drives that preceded the construction of the text. Thus, a translation cannot afford to be insensitive towards the choice of specific words, and the specific organization of a text, both of which are existentially charged. The task of the translator is not to transfer the factual meaning of the linguistic or formal elements in one language to the words that convey the very same factual meaning. It is to be sensitive to to the existential 'charge' that these formal and linguistic elements

carry in one language and present it faithfully to the readers in another language. Referring in detail to a well-known English translation of the French writer Flaubert's work on Saint Julien, Gill observed that it is inappropriate to reduce the tensions and contradictions (in relation to characters and their relations) that words carry in this author's original text to words merely carrying superficial information. Translation of creative works involve being sensitive to the existentially charged meanings and context that pervades in a specific work, and thus being able to convey the meaning of that non-manifest immanent plane to the readers in another language. Such creativity in the translation process would always be foreign to translation by machines.

The series of lectures concluded with Dr. Saugata Bhaduri of Centre for English Studies proposing a vote of thanks to Professor Gill and to colleagues and students of the university who participated.

**Franson D. Manjali, Professor,
Centre for Linguistics, SLL & CS**

Lecture on "European Systems of Innovation"

Dr. Georgi Dimitrov, Policy Officer at the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, delivered a comprehensive and analytical lecture on "European Systems of Innovation" at Centre for Studies in Science Policy, SSS, JNU on 3 December 2010. Dr. Dimitrov came to India for the first time to deliver a lecture in the 13th TCI Annual Global Conference on Competitiveness, Innovative Clusters and Prosperity, held at MDI Gurgaon during 29 November to 3 December 2010. During this visit, he agreed to interact with JNU faculty and research scholars to discuss India's participation in the global innovation hotspots.

In his lecture at JNU, Dr. Dimitrov highlighted the genesis of newly launched European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIIIT), which aims to become a flagship institution for promoting excellence in European innovation. The EIIIT was established by the European Parliament and the Council on 11 March 2008 for nurturing excellence in innovation in each member state of the European Union (EU). EIIIT became operational at the end of 2009.

Dr. Dimitrov also added that EU member countries have different levels of innovation capability and institutional framework. EIIIT aims to strengthen both innovation capability and institutional capacity of each member country. Thus, EIIIT strategically helps in designing new models for innovation, collaboration and funding of innovation. EIIIT emphasises on integrating three sides of the 'Knowledge Triangle'

encompassing higher education, research and business-innovation. To integrate this knowledge triangle, EIIIT puts in place a few results-driven instruments such as the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). EIIIT has already established three thematic KICs to address common societal challenges, namely, Climate-KIC (climate change mitigation and adaptation), KIC InnoEnergy (sustainable energy) and EIIIT ICT Labs (the future of the information and communication society). These KICs are designed to bring highly integrated and excellence-driven autonomous partnerships, which are internationally distributed but thematically convergent. Each KIC will be strategically co-located around a geographical location where all or large part of the innovation chain can be found in close proximity working together across the innovation chain. KIC outcomes to be measured in terms of (i) new business creation; (ii) education and development of entrepreneurial people; (iii) new governance models for innovation-driven collaboration; and (iv) improvements in curricular and learning and teaching methods. In this way the 'knowledge triangle' becomes a strong inter-dependent entity for each KIC, enriching each other's knowledge base.

Dr. Dimitrov pointed out that each thematic KIC identifies and builds up world class innovation hotspots. For example, EIIIT-ICT Labs initially establishes world class innovation hotspots in Berlin, Eindhoven, Helsinki and Stockholm. This KIC also establishes associate clusters in Budapest, London and Trento.

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Each co-location of a KIC hotspot features at least: one strong research institute, one major university, one European-based multinational company, active regional network of SME, and full national and regional support.

Dr. Dimitrov also mentioned that each KIC is very keen to establish linkages with excellent institutions and innovative

companies from emerging countries (particularly from India), if they bring added value to the KIC.

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

"4th International Sanskrit Computational Linguistics Symposium (4i-SCLS)"

Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University organized the Fourth International Sanskrit Computational Linguistics Symposium (4i-SCLS) on December 10-12, 2010. The venue of the symposium was SAA Auditorium, JNU. Over 230 faculty, students and researchers including over 20 foreign delegates participated in the symposium. The three day symposium in 15 sessions had the inaugural session, 18 paper presentations, 6 plenary talks and the valedictory sessions. An evening of cultural programme was organized on first day of the symposium in which a Sanskrit play titled 'Karnabharam' was staged mostly by the students of Sanskrit centre.

The welcome address and theme of the symposium was presented by Dr. Girish Nath Jha, the chair of the event. The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. Bal Ram Singh, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. The keynote speech was given by Prof. Ramanath Sharma, University of Hawaii, USA. Prof. V.K. Jain, Registrar, JNU gave the presidential remarks and released the proceedings published by Springer Verlag. Prof.



Sankar Basu, Acting Chairperson of the centre gave the vote of thanks. The valedictory session was participated by the following eminent scholars of Sanskrit – Prof. V.N. Jha, Prof. Kapil Kapoor and Prof. Radhavallabh Tripathi, and was chaired by Prof. Peter Scharf from Brown University.

Girish Nath Jha, Associate Professor
Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies

International Conference on "Methods and Models in Computer Sciences (ICM2CS-2010)"

The International Conference on Methods and Models in Computer Science (ICM2CS-2010) was held on December 13-14, 2010. The inauguration was held on December 13, 2010 in the auditorium of School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Prof. G.K. Chadha, Chief Executive Officer, South Asian University, New Delhi was the Chief Guest at the Inauguration, who gave the inaugural address and released the conference proceedings. The Inauguration also comprised of keynote lecture on "Parallel Computing: Past, Present and Future" by Prof. Virendra C. Bhavsar, Faculty of Computer Science, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB, Canada. The conference had the following invited talks:

- "Structure and Content Semantic Similarity Detection of XML Data" by Prof. Sanjay Madria, Department of

Computer Science, Missouri University of Science and Technology Rolla, Missouri, USA

- "Mathematical Modelling and Computers" by Prof. V.V.



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Menon, Former Professor of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science and Engineering, Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

- "Mining of Biological Data" by Prof. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, Machine Intelligence Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata 700 108
- "Control and Communications Challenges in Wireless Networked Control Systems" by Dr. Munish Goyal, IBM Research INDIA, Research Collaboratory for Service Science, Indian School of Business, Gachibowli, Hyderabad-500032
- "Why ATM Makes Sense" by Prof. T. Viswanathan, Former professor in Department of Electrical Communication Engineering and Supercomputer Education and Research Center, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Among the 22 research papers accepted for presentation at

the conference, 21 research papers were presented. There were 66 registrations in the conference of which 5 were from abroad (USA, Mexico, Iraq, Oman) and 61 were from India. The conference had a audience, on both the days, listening to the keynote lecture/invited talks and research paper presentations. Also, students and faculty members from the other Schools in the University were present during the various sessions of the conference. The conference received financial support from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi. The conference was Technically Co-Sponsored by CS Chapter, IEEE Delhi Section.

The conference was successful as it received appreciation from the participants and the invited speakers.

**T. V. Vijay Kumar, Convener,
School of Computer & Systems Sciences**

Workshop on "Development of Concepts in Modern Biology"

The School of Life sciences organized a winter workshop on "Development of Concepts in Modern Biology" under the auspices of "UGC Networking Resources Centre" from 13-16 December, 2010. Dr Ashwani Pareek and Dr Sushil Jha served as coordinators of the event from SLS, JNU. The workshop was a collaborative effort to help the participants in getting acquainted with the emerging concepts in selected areas of Modern Biology as well as to develop independent research aptitudes including an in-depth review of current status of various facets of modern biology. To achieve this objective, twenty teachers/scientists selected as participants served as representatives of their regional host institutes from different parts of the country. This workshop provided a platform for these ignited minds to be exposed to state of the art research being carried out at leading national and international research organizations like JNU, AIIMS, DU, and University of Arkansas. The workshop was inaugurated by the acting Dean of the school, SLS, Professor B. N. Mallick with a welcome note. He emphasized on the coordinated research efforts across the country and also lauded the salient achievements of the host institute in the past 50 year years. The inaugural lecture by Prof. Deepak Pental focused on the need for amalgamation of both conventional and modern molecular biology practices in the area of agriculture. He also raised concerns about the existing regulatory practices governing GMOs and also stressed on expediting the release of engineered crops after thorough evaluation. This thought provoking lecture was followed by interesting lectures by



several eminent personalities from various institutes including Prof K. C. Upadhyaya (SLS, JNU), Prof B. N. Mallick (SLS, JNU), Prof T. P. Singh (AIIMS), Prof N. Raghuram (IPU) and Prof Vibha Srivastava (University of Arkansas). The ethical aspects of modern science discussed by Dr. Raghuram were mind boggling and at the same time encouraged everyone to ponder upon the many pitfalls of competitive research looming large over the scientific community. All the selected participants were then allotted mentors to guide them through their research and give shape to their ideas. The workshop also garnered active participation from the students. Overall, the event was a grand success and also laid a foundation for many such interactions amongst the scientific fraternity in future.

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

Our Publications

List of Publications

School of International Studies

- "US Approach to the Islamic World in Post 9/11 Era", New Delhi, Academic Foundation, 2009, Chintamani Mahapatra, CCUSLAS
- "Indigenous Identity and Activism", New Delhi: Shipra Publications, 2009 (Edited volume) Priti Singh, CCUSLAS

School of Social Sciences

- "The British Empire and the Natural World: Environmental Encounters in South Asia" OUP, Delhi, 2010, Deepak Kumar, Vinita Damodaran, Rohan D'Souza (eds.), ERRU
- "The Children of Nature: Life and Legacy of Ramana Maharishi", Roli Books, Delhi, Susan Visvanathan, CSSS
- "Quest for Participating", Anand Kumar, CSSS

- "Sociology in India: Intellectual & Institutional Practices", (ed.) Rawat, 2010, Maitrayee Chaudhuri
- "The Women's Movement in India: Reform & Revival", Palm Leaf, New Delhi 2011, Maitrayee Chaudhuri, CSSS
- "Religion and Culture in Indian Civilization: Essays" in honour of Prof. C.N. Venugopal, D.K. Printworld, New Delhi, Amit Kumar Sharma, CSSS

School of Environmental Sciences

- "Water Resource Management" Academic Publishing AG & Co., Country of Publication, Germany, Saumitra Mukherjee

School of Language, Literature & Cultural Studies

- "The Role & Significance of Literature in Language pedagogy, 2010" Edited by Prof. Anita Khanna, CJKNEAS

Our Scholars

List of scholars who have been awarded the Degree of Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) from 08.05.2009 to 24.09.2009. The name of the scholar is followed by the title of the thesis/dissertation and the name of the supervisor.

Master of Philosophy (M.Phil)

School of Social Sciences

Centre for Economic Studies and Planning

Ms. Kim Shinjou "Investment and Growth in Indian Registered Manufacturing Sector 1991-92 to 2003-04", Prof. C.P. Chandrasekhar

Mr. Akhil Alha "On Some Aspects of Remittances and International Labour Migration from South Asia with Special Emphasis on India: 1980-2005", Dr. Praveen Jha

Mr. Roshan Kishore "Food Consumption under Economic Reforms and the Public Distribution System" Prof. Utsa Patnaik

Ms. Enakshi Sinha Ray "The Political Determinants of Public Goods Provision in the States of India: An Empirical Investigation", Dr. Sugato Dasgupta

Mr. Avanindra Nath Thakur "An Economic Analysis of the Trends and Pattern of Migration in Contemporary Bihar and Jharkhand", Dr. Praveen Jha

Mr. Amarjyoti Mahanta "The Pricing of Land When Lumpy

Demand Can only be met from Multiple Sellers", Prof. Anjan Mukherji

Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies

Ms. Bonny Roy "Communicative Teaching Practices for Hearing Impaired Children: A Study in Government Nursery/Secondary School, South Delhi", Prof. Ajit Kumar Mohanty

Ms. Ambar Zahara "The Issue of Governance at Primary Level of Education: A Case Study of Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh", Dr. Saumen Chattopadhyay

Ms. Toinali Sema "Classroom Achievement in Sema, Nagamese and English Medium Primary Schools in Nagaland", Prof. Ajit Kumar Mohanty

Ms. Niharika Kumari "The Changing Representation of Indian History in NCERT Textbooks: Political and Academic Debates", Prof. Deepak Kumar

Ms. Emeni Kayina "Cultural Activities and Learning: A Personal and Cultural Experience of Learning Geometrical Shapes and Patterns", Prof. Ajit K. Mohanty

Mr. Abhineet Kala Lakra "Ethnicity and Classroom Processes: An Exploratory Study of a School in Jharkhand", Prof. Geetha B. Nambissan

Centre for the Study of Social Systems

Mr. Sasikumar V.K. "Reading Panapayattu or Gift Exchange in North Malabar, Kerala", Prof. Susan Visvanathan

Our Scholars

Mr. Yoonsik Lee “Power and Identity: A Sociological Overview of Christianity in India” Prof. S.S. Jodhka

Ms. Sinjini Mukherjee “Of Midwives, Cords and the Afterbirth: Contrasting Conceptions of the Body and Reproductive Health”, Dr. Harish Naraindas

Ms. Neha Ojha “Gender Violence and Ethnicity”, Dr. Renuka Singh

Mr. Irfanullah Farooqi “Literature and Society: An Interpretative Study of Faiz Ahmad Faiz's Poetry”, Prof. Avijit Pathak

Centre for Social Medicine & Community Health

Ms. Nisha Kumari “Understanding Imbalance in Child Sex Ratio: An Explorations of Haryana”, Dr. Sanghmitra S. Acharya & Prof. Rama V. Baru”

Ms. Renu Singh “The Politics of women's Sexuality: An Exploration”, Prof. Mohan Rao

Ms. Mina Toko “Understanding Refugees: A Profile of Movements, Policies and their Living Conditions with Special Reference to Tibetans in India”, Dr. Sanghmitra S. Acharya

Ms. Madge Varada Jayant “Infertility, Women and Assisted Reproductive Technologies: Reproductive Choice or Reproductive Disruption? An Exploratory Study in Pune City”, Prof. Mohan Rao

Centre for Historical Studies

Mr. Amardeep “The Making of the Dalit Public Sphere in Uttar Pradesh 1913-1978”, Prof. Tanika Sarkar.

Ms. Sarika Kumari “Maritime Commerce and European Companies in Southern India During the Seventeenth Century: Coromandel and Malabar Regions”, Dr. Yogesh Sharma

Ms. Sonali Sharma “Reformist Ideas and Emergence of Feminism in Marathi Fiction (1850s – 1920s)”, Prof. Tanika Sarkar

Ms. Esther P Konyak “The Dynamics of Frontier Regions: Aspects of the North East and South Eastern Bengal Under the Mughals”, Prof. Rajat Datta

Ms. Kakul Fatima “State and Ideologies: Changing Political Structure in Revolutionary France, 1789-1794”, Dr. Arvind Sinha

Centre for Political Studies

Mr. Vikas Tripathi “Decline of Legislature: An Assessment of the Working of Indian Parliament”, Prof. Gurpreet Mahajan.

Ms. Maitree Devi “Religious Fundamentalism and Party Politics in Bangladesh: A Comparative Study of the Communal Mobilization by the Two Major Political Party Alliances in Bangladesh”, Prof. Rakesh Gupta.

Mr. Mahesh S. Panicker “Disability and Social Justice: Prospects of the Capability Approach”, Prof. Vidhu Verma

Mr. Arvind Shankar Shukla “Social Security System in India for Rural Unemployed and Unorganized Sector”, Prof. Balveer Arora

Ms. Poonam Kakoti Borah “The Culture – Nature Dichotomy and Feminism: Implications for Citizenship”, Prof. Vidhu Verma

Mr. Kaustubh Kr. Deka “Students as Agents of Identity Formation: Analysing the Politics of Student Movements in Assam, 1960-2006”, Prof. Gopal Narayan Guru

Ms. Arunima Deka “The State and Indigenous People's Rights in India”, Dr. T. G. Suresh

Ms. Moggallan Bharti “Study on Agrarian Relations in Uttar Pradesh and the Approach of Bahujan-Samaj Party to the Land-Question”, Prof. Gopal Narain Guru

Mr. Moses Kharbithai “Indian Labour Diaspora in the Post-Colonial Period with Special Reference to the Gulf Countries”, Prof. Pralay Kanungo

Mr. Bipul Kumar “Ethnicity Regionalism and the Jharkhand Movement”, Prof. Valerian Rodrigues

Mr. Shashank Chaturvedi “Politics of Knowledge Systems in India: Science in Contestation”, Dr. Manindra N. Thakur

Mr. Chandran Komath “Authenticity and Frangmentation: An Investigation into Taylorian and Post-Structuralist Conceptions of Identity”, Prof. Valerian Rodrigues

Mr. Arindam Dakua “Elite Politics: A Study of Changing Social Composition of Political Elite in Orissa”, Prof. Rakesh Gupta

Centre for the Study of Regional Development

Mr. Rajsekhar Bhattacharya “Agrarian Crisis and Employment Diversification for Andhra Pradesh: A State and District Level Analysis”, Prof. R. Srivastava

Ms. Sasmita Jena “Influence of Women Malnutrition on Infant Mortality in Orissa: Evidence from NFHS-2 (1998-99) and NFHS-3 (2005-06)”, Prof. M.D. Vemuri

Ms. Chitrani Das “Changes in the Rural Credit Market in India: An Analysis Based on the All India Debt and Investment Survey”, Prof. Ravi S. Srivastava

Ms. Meenakshi Sharma “Productivity Estimation of Manufacturing Sector in India: A Decomposition Analysis of Technological Progress Technical Efficiency and Returns to Scale”, Dr. Atul Sood

Ms. Nivedita Mishra “Female Migrants in Rural India: A Study of Selected States”, Dr. D.K. Mishra

Our Scholars

Ms. Mala Mukherjee “Urban Growth and Spatial Transformation of Kolkata Metropolis”, Dr. Anuradha Banerjee

Ms. Tanusree Paul “Women and Gendered Public Spaces: A Case of Kolkata”, Prof. Saraswati Raju

Ms. Ruchika Rani “Employment and Poverty among Agricultural Worker Households: A State Level Analysis (2004-2005)”, Prof. R. K. Sharma

Ms. Lophro Celina Saprana “Political Economy of Human Resource Development in the Naga Majority Areas of North-East India”, Prof. B. S. Butola

Mr. Benjamin L. Saitluanga “Urbanization and Regional Development in Patkai Hills”, Prof. B.S. Butola

Centre for Philosophy

Mr. Pawan Kumar “Interrogating Husserl's Idea of Experience”, Dr. Bhagat Oinam

Centre for Studies in Science Policy

Mr. Shashank Shekhar Tiwari “Sectoral Innovation System of Stem Cell Technology in India”, Prof. P.N. Desai

School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies

Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies

Mr. Razi Haidar “Comparative Study of Poetry of Abul Qasim Lahuti and Faiz Ahmad Faiz”, Dr. Akhlaque Ahmad Ansari

Md. Manzer Hussain “Ghalib & The Revolt of 1857 in the light of 'Dastanbu'”, Dr. Akhlaque Ahmad Ansari

Md. Shabbir Aalam “A Critical Study of Ahmade-e-Shamlu's Haiku”, Dr. Akhlaque Ahmad Ansari

Md. Fahimul Haque Khan “Talibuff's Prose works and Constitutional Movement”, Dr. Akhlaque Ahmad Ansari

Centre of Russian Studies

Ms. Monika “Gazetno-publitsisticheskiye materialy i ikh perevod pri pripodavanii russkovo yazyka”, Prof. Charanjit Singh

Ms. Geeta Kumari “Russko-Angliyskiy I Anglo-Russkiy Slovník Abrazivnikh Terminov”, Prof. Charanjit Singh

Mr. Upendra Kumar “Grammaticalization of Verbs in Russian & Hindi”, Prof. Charanjit Singh

Centre for Arabic and African Studies

Mahmood Alam Siddiqui “Role of Ulama in the Revolt of

1857 as Reflected in the Arabic and Urdu Writings-A Selective Study”, Prof. S.A Rehman

Mr. Talha Farhan “The Encomium on Holy Prophet in Indian Arabic Poetry During the 20th Century”, Prof. F.U. Farooqi

Mohammad Merajul Haque “Allama Sayed Suleman Ashraf and his Book Al-Mubeen Fi Fiqhal-Lugha al-Arabia: An Analytical Study”, Prof. S.A. Rahman

Mohd. Ziyaur Rahman “Analytical Study of Amir Khusru's Arabic Poetry”, Dr. Rizwanur Rahman

Mohd. Mahamid Husain “Development of Arabic Grammar in India in the 20th Century: A Selective Study”, Prof. S.A. Rahman

Centre for English Studies

Ms. Chakpram Priyanka “Australian Aboriginal History through Fiction: A Study of Kim Scott's Novels True Country and Benang”, Dr. Santosh K. Sareen

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Mr. Anil Pratap Giri “Rasagangadhara Navyanyaya-Bhasha-Pravidhi Ke Aloka Mein (Kavya Bheda Paryanta)”, Dr. Hari Ram Mishra

Mr. Shashi Kant Tripathi “Rasagangadhara Evam Rasamimamsa Mein Rasavimarsa”, Dr. Hari Ram Mishra

Ms. Monica Kuwar Rathore “Metaphysics in the

Philosophy of Ayurveda”, Dr. Ram Nath Jha

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Ms. Chetna Kumari “Comparative Study of Docking tools for Virtual High Throughput Screening (vHTS) Accuracy”, Prof. Indira Ghosh

Mr. Arvind Singh Mer “Deterministic and Stochastic Modeling of Neuronal Activity”, Prof. Ram Ramaswamy

Alumni Corner

An interview with Dr. Simi Malhotra, Associate Professor, Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi



Wafa: When and how did your association with JNU begin? Where did you graduate from and what made you think of coming to JNU for further studies?

Simi Malhotra: I joined JNU in the year 1997 when I took admission in the MA English Programme at Centre of Linguistics

and English (CLE), School of Languages (that was exactly how the centre and the school were called then). After completing my BA English (Hons.) from Gargi College, University of Delhi (DU), I had the option of either continuing my MA at DU or to make a switch to JNU. Needless to say, I chose JNU. Having decided to pursue a career in academics, JNU was the obvious choice for me.

I completed my MA in 1999 and took admission to the integrated M.Phil/Ph.D programme at CLE. After completing my M.Phil. coursework I went in for the direct Ph.D. option, and got awarded my doctoral degree in 2004.

Lakshmi: What were your first impressions about this University?

Simi Malhotra: Having grown up on a campus next door, JNU was a sea-change from IIT. I remember the summer of 1997, the bougainvillea-lined road which led one from the main gate to the ad-block, the general wilderness which enveloped you, the graffiti on the red brick buildings, co-students at stalls outside the ad-block trying to help new entrants like me with the admissions process, the multi-coloured folios which had to be filled in quintuplicate and dropped at different places on campus, and the very helpful JNU administrative staff especially Rawatji at CLE. All this was followed by a heady discovery of caves and classes, rocks and books, dhabas and paper presentations, slogans and end semester exams. JNU unfolded a whole new universe of thinking, of being ...

Wafa: How would you describe your years at JNU?

Simi Malhotra: My years at JNU ... my years at CLE from MA to Ph.D., to be more specific ... were probably the most significant years of my life. The rigour and yet the flexibility of the academic programme at JNU, the interdisciplinary ethic, the accomplished faculty, the co-students who came from all over the country and occasionally from other parts of the world, the atmosphere of discussion and debate, were all very important in framing my academic base. Besides, and possibly

Alumni Corner

more importantly, the larger academic culture in JNU compelled one to engage with competing ideas not just with respect to one's own discipline but also about society, politics, culture, and all these were very significant in framing one's orientation. The freedom of thought, expression, and being that JNU offers is incomparable. No wonder JNU is not just another University but a whole Universe. I was once told that you may step out of JNU but JNU never steps out of you, and I do think that nothing rings truer than that.

Lakshmi: How has JNU shaped your perception in relation to your profession?

Simi Malhotra: Apart from what I said above about JNU having been extremely important in forming my academic base, my general orientation, and perspective, JNU also taught me much about the craft of teaching. My teachers at JNU have contributed immensely not just to my understanding of the discipline but also to my approach to the profession of teaching. My Ph.D supervisors (Prof H S Gill and Prof Franson Manjali) truly nurtured me. They have been my guides, philosophers and friends and I cherish my association with them dearly. All my teachers at CLE have been examples for me and have contributed towards my becoming a teacher in their own way. As a teacher today, I adopt/adapt a mixture of what I learnt from each of them. Besides, they also taught me what it entails to be an academic and have continued to inspire me with their work and selves over the years.

Wafa: How would you describe JNU academic culture in contrast with the other universities you've been to?

Simi Malhotra: As stated earlier, I went to DU for my undergraduate degree and switched to JNU for further studies. Thereafter I went on to teach at DU and now I am at Jamia Millia Islamia. I am thus in a position to compare these three universities.

The academic culture in JNU is different from the other universities I have been to in so far as the students are the most important contributors to its vibrancy. Not only does JNU attract the best students from all across the country but it also offers one of the enriching experience of dealing with diversity in a very immediate and tangible way. The students play a very important role in JNU: they are partners in administrative bodies such as SFCs, they are the ones who run cultural clubs on campus, they manage students' affairs, be it in hostels or as the students' union, etc.

I think the most important element of JNU's academic culture

that would set it in contrast with other universities is (or, sadly, was) its students' union elections, and for a generation to miss out on this experience of what was probably the biggest carnival in the world, I would say, is a loss which is immeasurable. On a more serious note, JNU elections were an integral part of being a student on campus, which kept the academic culture of debate and discussion alive on campus, and not to experience the same now for more than three years is a huge pity. I think, once again, students comprise the single most important contributor to what makes JNU different.

Also the culture of discussion and debate, of seminars and public meetings, of free exchange between faculty members and students keep the academic community of JNU alive and engaged. The flexibility and rigour of the academic programme offer ample opportunities for students to immerse themselves in all kinds of intellectual pursuits and follow different paths. The residential campus with its distinct community life, its unique culture, is life-altering for anyone who has been through JNU. The student' marches, the festival of holi, post dinner meetings, the wild-life, ganga dhaba, hostel nights ... are all landmarks in a student's life, and part of the unique academic culture of JNU. All this and more make JNU a special place and I think no place offers such a stimulating and rich experience as JNU does.

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

Simi Malhotra: Even though there are several competing memories, but I think I remember my MA days with the greatest fondness: the discussions with classmates, debates which went beyond classrooms, lazy lunches at the SIS canteen, sojourns into the forest, many seminars and post-seminar parties ... countless memories ... Besides, all the many enchanted afternoons and evenings that I spent at Prof Gill's house at 1313 Poorvanchal are possibly some of the best days of my life.

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

Simi Malhotra: What message can I give to JNU students? Nothing, I guess ... except that they must realize how fortunate they are to be part of JNU and they must make the most of being on campus. The years that they are spending here will possibly prove to be the most significant years of their life, and they must realise to the fullest the worth of what they are currently going through.

Photo Gallery



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1. Jawaharlal Nehru University organized the Seventh Nehru Memorial lecture on "Nehru's India: Pluralism and Knowledge" on 30 November, 2010 by Dr. Abid Hussain, Noted Diplomat and Intellectual. Photo shows Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor presenting memento to Dr. Abid Hussain.
2. Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences organized the Eight H.L. Parvana Memorial Lecture, 2010 on "Social Security & the Changing Conceptions of Labour" by Dr. Baba Adhav, Working President, National Campaign Committee for Unorganized Sector Workers.
3. Centre for Russian Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies organized an International Symposium on "Russian Studies at the Beginning of the 21st Century: Continuity in Change": on 10-12 November, 2010. Photo shows (from left) Prof. Charanjit Singh, Mr. Kanwal Sibal, Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Prof. Sankar Basu and Prof. V. B. Kataev.
4. Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies and Communication & Information Services, JNU organized a workshop on "E-learning & Multimedia for Education" on 3 November, 2010. Photo shows (from left) Prof. Vaishna Narang, Prof. Maureen Hall, Prof. Sankar Basu, Chairperson and Dr. Andrew Lynn, Director, CIS.
5. School of Environmental Sciences, organized a Symposium on "Sustainable Campus Design and Development for Higher Education" on 9 November, 2010. Photo shows (from right) Prof. R.K. Kale, Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat University; Prof. V. K. Jain, Registrar; Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor and Prof. Sudha Bhattacharya, Dean, SES alongwith other participants.
6. Centre for the Study of Law & Governance, organised a workshop on "Capacity Building through ICT for Persons with Visual Disability" on 12-13 November, 2010. Photo shows Prof. Amita Singh addressing the participants also seen in the photographs is Prof. Vaishna Narang and Prof. R. Ramaswamy.



7. Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Global Studies Programme, School of Social Sciences organised an International Seminar on “Human Migration and Displacement New Challenges to National, Regional and Global Governance” on 11-12 December, 2010. Photo shows Prof. Anand Kumar addressing the participants.
8. Centre for International Legal Studies, School of International Studies organized a Human Rights Day Seminar on “Corporate Responsibility in Respect of Human Rights” on 9 December, 2010. Photo shows (from left) Prof. Upender Baxi, Justice J.S. Verma and Prof. Y.K. Tyagi
9. The University signed an Agreement of Cooperation (Aoc) with the Wallonia-Brussels International to promote the teaching of French as a foreign language in JNU, on 22 December, 2010. Photo shows (from left) Dr. S. Chandrasekaran; Prof. R. Kumar and His Excellency Jean M. DE Boutte, Ambassador of Belgium.
10. The School of Computational and Integrative Sciences and BII, Singapore had started student exchange programme and in order to expand the exchange a meeting on “Genomic Informatics” was organized at Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi during 9 -10 Dec 2010.



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