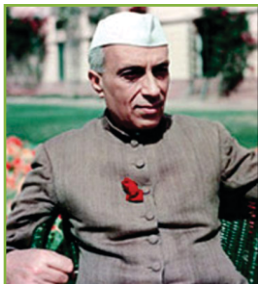




## Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



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

*Jawaharlal Nehru*



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

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

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



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

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# In Conversation with....

## Interview with Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Rector – I



**JNU News:** When and how did your association with JNU start?

**Prof. Mahapatra:** I have been associated with JNU since 1978 when I joined the M.A. Degree Programme of the School of International Studies. The new campus had not been fully operational then and classes used to be held in the JNU down campus. After M.A., I continued to study at JNU and completed my M. Phil and Ph. D. degrees as well.

**JNU News:** How do you feel about this transition from an academic role of being a Professor to purely administrative role of being the Rector?

**Prof. Mahapatra:** As and when I was doing the teaching job, I had also acquired some administrative experiences as a Senior Warden in a Hostel, Centre Chairperson and Acting Dean. However, the job of the Rector is indubitably quantitatively and qualitatively more exigent. Although I devote a lot of time to administrative works, including at times during the week-ends as well, I have remained committed to my academic activities as well. I have taken classes, published research articles, presented papers in seminars, written All India Radio commentaries, appeared in panel discussions in various TV networks and also have guided research students. It is hard work and I hope to sustain this effort.

**JNU News:** What exactly is the role of the Rector in a university? Can you enlighten us about that?

**Prof. Mahapatra:** The Rector of a university combines the role of an academic with the responsibility of an administrator. One who should be aware of the issues and concerns of the academic community and try to be a good education administrator to facilitate academic activities within the permissible rules and regulations.

**JNU News:** What are your immediate goals as the Rector?

**Prof. Mahapatra:** I have tried to stay connected with the University's academic community--students, research scholars and faculty to listen to their concerns and problems and have taken timely steps to address those. One of my foremost goals is to enlarge the academic activities by encouraging, assisting and even participating in the efforts made by various Schools and Special Centres. I function as part of the administrative team selected by the Vice Chancellor and aim at bringing about certain administrative reforms to expedite decision making, to make the campus look more exquisite than what it has been, make living in the campus more congenial and comfortable, so that on the whole campus ambience enhances study and research. One of my goals furthermore is to encourage various extra-curricular activities that can help personality development, promote social cohesion and deepen national integration.

**JNU News:** How has your experience in JNU been so far? Is there any one memory that stands out?

**Prof. Mahapatra:** I have both good and not-so-good memories. Yet, sweet memories are more. One such memory dates back to my days in London where I resided for about a year as a Commonwealth Scholar at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London. On a week-end, I was walking along the famous Oxford Street and suddenly someone tapped my back. When I turned, I saw another JNUite. We shook hands, hugged each other and, more interestingly, we did not even know our names or Schools at JNU we were from. Yet, we spoke, introduced each other, and spent some time together. It often happens to JNUites!! We had seen each other multiple times in the campus and never greeted each other, but once out of JNU....

**JNU News:** What, according to you, makes JNU different?

**Prof. Mahapatra:** JNU is truly inimitable. The social demography in JNU has made it a mini-India. Peaceful co-

## In Conversation with....

living of students, staff and faculty with very diverse social, geographical and economic backgrounds, is exceptionally extraordinary. When students pass out and leave JNU to pursue their respective careers, they realise that they are no longer the same person when they first came to JNU. The university has changed their personality, outlook, and attitude to life. JNU is a transformational institution and it provides a distinct identity to those who pass out from here. It is one of the very few violence-free campuses in the country. The intellectual ambience is everybody's envy.

### JNU News: In what ways do you think JNU has changed from the time you were here to now?

**Prof. Mahapatra:** JNU has certainly become more green and much more picturesque over the years. JNU Campus is regarded as the lungs of South Delhi. The number of schools, fields of study and research, number of seminars, conferences, workshops have enormously increased, compared to the time I was a student. In addition, our research scholars have begun to publish

articles and research papers. Population of foreign students has also considerably expanded.

### JNU News: What message do you have to the JNU community?

**Prof. Mahapatra:** In a fast changing world, quantity and quality of challenges have become enormous. Competition is rising by the hour. We all should do our best to sustain our excellence and further enhance our academic achievements. I think every member of the JNU community, every office, every centre, every school needs to develop a set of annual goals, an action plan and systematically strive to achieve those goals. Secondly, in this era of intense social networks and instant information transmission, we should also be aware that the world is watching us. What we do and do not do are monitored by the society and we have to live up to our goals and commitments. We owe a lot to the society and we must give back by contributing to the social goods. And we can do that when we all are united, cooperative and work in unison to bring a good name to ourselves and to JNU.

## Movements & Appointments

### New Appointments/Deans/Directors/Chairpersons

- ◆ Prof. Saumitra Mukherjee as Dean, School of Environmental Sciences, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Prof. Girish Nath Jha, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies as Director, International Collaboration, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Prof. Atul Kumar Johri, School of Life Sciences as Director, Human Resource Development, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Dr. Rupesh Chaturvedi, Associate Professor, School of Biotechnology as Director (Research & Development).
- ◆ Prof. Kharat Rajesh Srikrishna, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies as Chief Advisor, Equal opportunity Office.
- ◆ Prof. Edward A. Rodrigues, Centre for the Study of Social Systems as Advisors, Equal Opportunity Office, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Dr. Neera Kongari, Centre of Japanese, Korean and North East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies as Advisor, Equal Opportunity Office, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Dr. Rajnish Kumar Mishra, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies as Provost, Uttarakhand, for a period of two years.
- ◆ Dr. Bijoy Kumar Kuanr as Chairperson, Special Centre for Nano Sciences, for a Period of two years.
- ◆ Prof. K.S. James as Professor in the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Ranjeeta Dutta as Associate Professor in the Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Shonaleeka Kaul as Associate Professor in the Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Lipi Biswas Sen as Assistant Professor in the Centre of Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Latin American Studies, School of Language Literature and Culture Studies.

# Movements & Appointments

## Retirements & Resignations

- ◆ Shri Anas Ahmad, Private Secretary, Dean's Office, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.
- ◆ Shri Nageshwar Rao Kondamudi, Assistant Librarian, Central Library.
- ◆ Smt. Bhagvati Tanwar, Assistant, Centre for English Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.
- ◆ Shri Anand Singh Rawat, Assistant, Aravali International Guest House.
- ◆ Shri M. C. Tiwari, Semi Professional Assistant, Central Library.
- ◆ Shri Rajinder Singh, Semi Professional Assistant, Central Library.
- ◆ Shri Ganga Singh, Professional Assistant, Central Library.
- ◆ Shri Mahender Singh, Junior Assistant – cum – Typist, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Shri Vinod Kumar Bali, Pump Operator, Engineering Branch.
- ◆ Shri Kalu Ram, Lift Operator, Engineering Branch.
- ◆ Shri Hari Prasad Tiwari, Head Mess Helper, Sutlej Hostel.
- ◆ Smt. Somwati Devi – I, Safaikaramchari, Pariyar Hostel.
- ◆ Smt. Kela Devi, Safaikarmchari, School of Social Sciences.

**Following faculty members have been appointed as Hostel Wardens for the period of two years from the date of joining duties.**

Sl. No.	Name & Designation	School/Centre	Name of the Hostel
1.	Dr. Vijay Pal Yadav, Assistant Professor	SES/JNU	Jhelum
2.	Dr. Aprajita Kashyap, Assistant Professor	CC, US&LAS / SIS	Godavari

## Notifications

**Vice Chancellor has reconstituted the Disaster Management Cell in the university to deal with any type of emergencies as under:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Prof. Sanjay K. Bhardwaj, SIS - Chairperson | 2. Dr. Sunita Reddy, CSMCH, SSS - Member |
| 3. Dr. Jayant Kumar Tripathi, SES - Member     | 4. Dean of Student - Member              |
| 5. Chief Medical Officer - Member              | 6. Executive Engineer (E) - Member       |
| 7. Executive Engineer (C) - Member             | 8. Deputy Registrar (Estate) - Member    |
| 9. Chief Security Officer - Member             |  |

**The University has reconstituted the Environmental Task Force (ETF) for a period of two years, with the following members are to assess environmental aspects of proposed new construction activities and other cases :-**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Prof. Umesh Chandra Kulshrestha, SES - Chairperson | 2. Prof. Aparna Sawhney, CITD, SIS - Member                 |
| 3. Prof. P.K. Joshi, SES - Member                     | 4. Dr. Gautam Jha, SLL&CS - Member                          |
| 5. Dr. Md Qutbuddin, SLL&CS - Member                  | 6. Sh. Rajiv Kumar, SE (C) - Member                         |
| 7. Sh. B.S. Rawat, EE (E/C) - Member                  | 8. Sh. Sunil Kumar, Horticulture Officer - Member Secretary |

# Movements & Appointments

## Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra is new JNU Rector



Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra is currently Rector-I of Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is concurrently Professor, Centre for Canadian, US & Latin American Studies at the School of International Studies of JNU.

He has held positions, such as Member, UGC Review Committee, Area Studies Programme; Member, Fellowship Expert Committee, ICSSR; Editor, Indian Foreign Affairs Journal; Member, Editorial Board, Strategic Analysis, IDSA; Member, Editorial Board, Diaspora Studies; and Member, Committee on Studies, Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia.

Recently, he was Tagore Chair Professor at Yunnan University of China. He has conducted research in several US Presidential Libraries and US National Archives; and British Public Record Office in London.

Prof. Mahapatra has authored four books, one edited volume, and has contributed chapters to over 30 edited books. He has published more than 70 research articles in reputed journals.

He has been awarded a number of international fellowships, such as Fulbright Fellowship, Commonwealth Fellowship, and Visiting Fellowships to undertake research in the US, UK, Austria, Australia and many other countries.

He has been a visiting faculty in several UGC-run Academic Staff Colleges, the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs, National Defense College, Army War College, Naval War College and the College of Air Warfare.

He is also a regular commentator in newspapers and on audio-visual media on international affairs.

# Achievements/Awards

- ◆ Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for the transfer of operations and management of academic activities of the National Institute of Animal Welfare, presently with the MoEFCC, to JNU.

The MoA was signed by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar on behalf of JNU and Mr. Anil Sant, Joint Secretary, on behalf of MoEFCC. The signing ceremony was conducted in the presence of Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon'ble Minister, Human Resource Development and Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, Environment Forest and Climate Change, in the conference hall of the Minister, HRD at Shastri Bhavan.

The MoA will empower JNU to venture into this new area of animal welfare, with six 1-month certification courses and one 6-month diploma course to begin with, to be followed after 1 year with a Master's level course. Courses based purely on various aspects of animal welfare will be conducted for the first time in the country to recognize animals as sentient beings, capable of experiencing pain and suffering, and to promote their welfare as animal welfare. is an issue of importance, and a part of the social development of nations world wide. JNU with its strong presence in the social sciences is considered the best institution to carry forward this task, to evolve statutory procedures and engage social efforts to promote the basic physical and material well-being of animals.

- ◆ JNU has been ranked at 2nd position by The Week – Hansa Research survey 2016 which ranks India's best multidisciplinary and technical universities. The following url may be referred for more details. <http://www.theweek.in/theweek/business/indias-best-multi-disciplinary-and-technical-universities.html>



- ◆ The Government of India has appointed Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University as a Member of University Grants Commission (UGC). Prof. Kumar, who earlier worked as a Professor at IIT Delhi said "Research and Innovation are the backbone of any developed society. One way to motivate students to get interested in Science is to expose them to research at an early stage in their education. Universities should play a proactive role in strengthening their research programs."

# Campus Activities

## हिंदी कार्यशाला का आयोजन

जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय (जेएनयू) में दिनांक 21 अप्रैल, 2016 (बृहस्पतिवार) को केंद्रीय पुस्तकालय के समिति कक्ष (कमिटी रूम) में विश्वविद्यालय के अनुभाग अधिकारियों के लिए एकदिवसीय हिंदी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर केंद्रीय हिंदी प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, नई दिल्ली से अनुभवी व्याख्याताओं को आमंत्रित किया गया। पूरे दिन की कार्यशाला में चार सत्र रखे गए। पहले सत्र में संघ की राजभाषा नीति, नियम-अधिनियम तथा हिंदी भाषा के मानकीकरण व व्याकरणिक भूल आदि विषय पर व्यावहारिक चर्चा-परिचर्चा की गई। दूसरे सत्र में कार्यालयी कामकाज में टिप्पण/आलेखन (नोटिंग / ड्राफ्टिंग) की रूपरेखा व इनके प्रारूप आदि के बारे में विस्तार से बताया गया तथा इनका अभ्यास कराया गया।

कार्यशाला के सायंकालीन सत्र में कम्प्यूटर पर हिंदी में कामकाज सहज ढंग से करने पर विस्तृत एवं व्यावहारिक व्याख्यान दिया

गया। इसके साथ-साथ विभिन्न ऑनलाइन सॉफ्टवेयरों तथा हिंदी में सहजता से टाइप करने व बोल कर टाइप करने का अभ्यास कराया गया। प्रशिक्षणार्थियों के लिए यह सत्र सबसे अधिक उपयोगी व रुचिकर रहा।

उल्लेखनीय है कि जेएनयू में संघ की राजभाषा नीति के प्रचार-प्रसार व प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन के लिए सदैव तत्पर रहता है। इसी क्रम में प्रत्येक तिमाही में भिन्न-भिन्न वर्ग के कर्मचारियों के लिए एक हिंदी कार्य शाला का आयोजन किया जाता है ताकि कर्मियों की हिंदी में काम करने की समस्या का निराकरण किया जा सके।

**सुमेर सिंह, अनुभाग अधिकारी  
हिंदी कार्यालय**

## Brief report on a recent event at AAJ's office

On 29 April, 2016, the Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ) welcomed its new Patron, JNU's VC, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar and also bid farewell to the outgoing AAJ Patron, Prof. Sudhir K. Sopory. Joint secretary Prof. Meeta Narain welcomed all the distinguished guests and alumni. The president of AAJ, Prof. Devendra Choubey summarized the activities of the association and briefed the audience about AAJ's roadmap and its future activities. AAJ's former patron, Prof. Sopory expressed his deep concern regarding the alumni association and hoped that the association will work well in the future towards

connecting JNU alumni to its alma mater. The new patron of AAJ, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar supported the activities of AAJ and envisioned the deep role that AAJ could play in the further development of the university. The program was attended by AAJ-EC members and several alumni of JNU including Rector, Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Alumni Affairs' Chief Advisor, Prof. K. P. Vijaylakshmi and Dean of Students, Prof. R. P. Singh.

**Sandesh Rayapa, Co-Convenor,  
AAJ Public Relations & Media Relations**

## Anti Terrorism Day

Anti Terrorism Day was celebrated in the Jawaharlal Nehru University on 20 May, 2016. On this occasion, an awareness meeting was held in the Administration Building (Room No. 225) of the University which was chaired by the Vice Chancellor and all higher dignitaries (Rector-I, Rector-II, Registrar, Dy. Registrar and other staff participated). Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Rector-I introduced members present about the need of this and he made the staff aware about the importance

of the anti-terrorist activity and he himself requested staff and officers present there to be aware and vigilant to avoid any terrorist activity in the country/locality. A pledge was also administered by the Registrar.

**Uma Kant Agarwal  
Dy Registrar  
Administration Branch**

## International Day of Yoga - Report

The Yoga Workshop (17 – 20 June, 2016), Lecture program on 20th June evening and International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2016 were organised by the JNU Sport Committee under the supervision of Prof. R.P. Singh, Dean of Students, JNU. The Workshop

began at 6 AM on 17 June, 2016 and was addressed by the Rector of JNU Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra. Everyday three sessions on how to perform and practice "Common Yoga Protocol approved by Ministry of AYUSH" were conducted under the guidance of

## Campus Activities

JNU yoga instructor, with the help of three external yoga instructors. More than seven hundred participants registered through online and offline mode and attended the sessions in different batches and learnt different types of asanas. Many participants also stayed back after the sessions and discussed the benefits of yoga with the instructors.

On 20 June, 2016, a special evening lecture session “Yoga Sandya” was also organised in which the Vice-Chancellor of JNU Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar talked about yoga, consciousness and healing power of yoga. Dean of students, Prof. Rana P. Singh, gave a brief introduction of yoga and its various phases of development. Rector of JNU Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra talked about the importance of yoga for a healthy and happy life. He also shed light on its popularity in various part of the world. He said that yoga was beyond religion and beyond all other kinds of faith and leanings, which has propelled it's popularity in several countries. Prof. S.C. Garkoti, Rector II also spoke about the importance of yoga and it recent spread in various countries. Dr. Sudhir Kumar, an expert on yoga and associate professor in Special Centre of Sanskrit Studies, JNU, gave a stunning talk on relevance of Ashtang Yoga: Current Scenario. He said that Ashtanga yoga was a system of yoga recorded by the sage Vamana Rishi in the Yoga Korunta, an ancient manuscript said to contain lists of many different groupings of asanas, as well as highly original teachings on vinyasa, drishti, bandhas, mudras, and philosophy. He shared the recent development and current scenario about astang yoga. Prof. Shashi Prabha Kumar of Special Centre of Sanskrit Studies, JNU delivered her address on yoga in Indian tradition. She highlighted the evolution of yoga and its various phases and how it became part of daily routine of Indians. She also tried to argue that yoga was always religion neutral, which was the reason for its popularity in India and

abroad. The Chief Guest of the function, Dr. Udit Raj, MP Lok Sabha, also talked about the relevance of yoga and significance of establishing yoga departments in universities. He also stressed that we should be committed to achieving this goal. The yoga workshop ended with the vote of thanks proposed by the University Sports Committee Chairperson, Prof. Rizwanur Rahman.

The main feature of the concluding session of the workshop was the arrangements for iftar for people observing fast in the ongoing month of Ramzan.

The International Day of Yoga was observed on 21 June, 2016. More than 700 members performed the Yoga with the T-shirt imprinted with the International Day of Yoga and JNU logo presented by the university in the programme as a dress code. It was a unique show with a large gathering of faculty, students, staff, alumni and their family members in JNU campus. Functions were held in the JNU Sports stadium from 6.30 AM. The programme began with the welcome address by the JNU Vice Chancellor, Prof. M Jagadesh Kumar. Yoga session was held as per the AYUSH Ministry protocol from 7.05 am to 7.55 am. Rector of JNU Prof Chintamani Mahapatra gave concluding remark and stressed that the university should have a separate school of yoga. He also praised the work done by the sports committee of Prof. Rizwanur Rahman, Dr. Sudesh Yadav and Dr. Dipendera Nath Das. Prof. Rahman thanked one and all who participated and helped to make the programme a grand success. On this occasion the University Sports Committee distributed a booklet on yoga among more than 700 participants and encouraged them to practice yoga at their home. The participants dispersed after light refreshments.

**Rana P. Singh, Professor  
School of Life Sciences**

## Seminars/Conferences

### International Symposium on Role of Herbals in Cancer Prevention and Treatment

The International Symposium on "Role of Herbals in Cancer Prevention and Treatment" was organized at the School of Life Sciences (SLS), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India during 9 – 10 February, 2016. Approximately 250 scientists participated in this event. The symposium was organized in association with the University of Colorado Denver, USA, University of Pittsburgh, USA, University of Oklahoma, USA,

Institute of Cytology and Preventive Oncology (ICPO), Noida, India and Cancer Research and Care Academy, India.

The program included discussions on recent advances in the field of herbal research for cancer prevention and treatment. The symposium aimed to provide an accumulated knowledge and nurture interactions among the various subjects focused

# Seminars/Conferences



on how to control cancer. In addition, the symposium emphasized on advances in the translational aspects of cancer control. The scientific discussions spread over two days comprised outstanding comprehensive lectures by plenary speakers, oral presentation by young researchers and poster based discussions on recent developments in the field of cancer control. The discussion highlighted that the current knowledge of the chemistry and biology of many beneficial herbal plants is very little, and thus more such effort is needed to explore these plants and their constituents, and the mechanisms in biological system. This will be helpful in improving the herbal formulations in our traditional medicine system.

The symposium deliberations also included the ideas for combinatorial chemoprevention by phytochemicals as a promising approach for cancer control and emerging trends for the use of herbal radio-modulators to sensitize the cancer cells for apoptotic cell death. Many bioactive phytochemicals such as silibinin, benzyl isothiocyanate, anthocyanidins, nextrutine, tocopherol, etc. were discussed for their in vivo efficacy in animal tumor models, associated mechanisms, and

translational potential. Targeting tumor microenvironment with small molecules was found promising and having translational potential for prostate and breast cancer chemoprevention.

The advances in technology and understanding of the process of cancer development suggests that the reported lesser incidence and death due to cancer could be due to under diagnosed and underrepresented cases. Further, increase in life span as well as ignorance about the disease puts populations in South and South East Asian countries at higher risk to develop cancer. With the increasing rate of cancer incidence every year in non-Western countries, cancer is estimated to become the deadliest disease in coming decades. Conventional chemo- and radiotherapies during the past three decades have not been able to contain the disease, and also have caused serious side effects. Many natural agents, especially small molecules from plants are nontoxic, easily available, and may have anticancer potential. Thus, screening phytochemicals as anticancer agents could be a better approach in cancer prevention and treatment. This chemoprevention approach may have translational significance for prevention and treatment of cancer.

The novel work and ideas presented at the symposium were helpful in guiding the research orientation of scientists, especially the young researchers who will benefit at all levels of their career development.

**Rana P. Singh, Professor  
School of Life Sciences**

## National Conference on Environmental Pollutants: Impact Assessment and Remediation (NCEPIAR-2016)

School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, hosted the National Conference on Environmental Pollutants: Impact Assessment and Remediation on 18 – 19 March, 2016 in the Amrita Devi Bishnoi Seminar Hall inside the School premises.

The well-attended Conference was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. M Jagadesh Kumar in the presence of the Dean SES, Prof. IS Thakur, SES faculty, invited guests, speak-

ers and students. The presiding guests of the Conference were the external experts for the UGC-SAP-DSA-II program, Prof. AK Kumaraguru, former Vice Chancellor, MS University, Tamil Nadu and Prof. GD Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Bilaspur University, Chhattisgarh. At the outset, the convener of the conference, Dr. Meenakshi Dua, Assistant Professor, SES warmly welcomed all the participants and delegates and introduced the theme of the conference. She highlighted the opportune time the conference was being held, coinciding with



## Seminars/Conferences

the rising global concerns on deteriorating environmental status and hoped that the talks and deliberations made during the sessions would be educative for the participants, specifically students. She apprised the audience that almost all the conference themes were being represented and that out of a gratifying number of abstracts received, the screening process of the review committee had selected presentations for each of the two oral and poster sessions organized theme-wise over the two days. She thanked all help extended to her in organizing the event and wished the conference success. The Dean SES, Prof. IS Thakur, himself an academician with passionate interests in Bioremediation and Biofuels further elaborated on the scenario of environmental pollutants and said that the main objective of the conference was to bring together leading academic scientists and research scholars to exchange and share their study and research results. He reiterated that the conference presented an interdisciplinary forum to address the contemporary status of 'Global Environment' which has undergone significant changes in terms of accumulation of pollutants and to discuss recent innovations, concerns and practical challenges and the solutions adopted in the field of environmental pollution and remediation. He expressed his happiness at the enthusiastic participation and wished the program well. The Vice Chancellor, in his address, congratulated the School for the event and lauded its continuous efforts in publishing research papers in reputed journals. While observing that the School had produced the maximum publications in the past one year, he also gently cautioned that the responsibility of the School is now even greater in ensuring that the quality of the publications is upheld and kept consistent in future. He wished the conference great success and wished all participants a pleasant time and stay. Prof. AK Kumaraguru, the external expert, also addressed the gather-

ing. He appreciated the event and expressed his pleasure to be a part of it. The Keynote talk of the conference was titled "The long road to Environmental Science: looking back and ahead" and was delivered by Prof. Charles U. Pittman Jr., Emeritus Professor of Organic Chemistry, Mississippi State University, USA. Prof. Pittman's illustrious career is dotted with a PhD in Chemistry (organic major) at the age of 24, a post doctoral fellowship with a Nobel Laureate, and active duty in the US Army (Ordinance Corps). He has worked on catalysis of solid rocket propellants, has many patents and over 830 refereed publications. He has given over 400 invited lectures, has been on the editorial boards of reputed journals and supervised more than 75 students. Besides all this, he has also been an ace football player and a sprinter of his times. His talk culminated with a simple take-home message, "never be afraid of making a mistake or trying an idea that others may think has little merit. Fear of failure is terribly self-limiting. Your Journey through life should be bold."

Finally, the formal vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Saumitra Mukherjee. He expressed his gratitude to the invited guests, speakers, delegates, participants and to the Organizing Committee. He also extended hearty thanks to all student volunteers and staff and acknowledged the financial support from the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the ENVIS program of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

The Technical Session I (TS-I) and the Poster Session I (PS-I) on Day One of the Conference were spread over 4 hours and saw 26 presentations being made collectively from Theme 1 (Air Pollution, Aerosol Physics, Noise Pollution, Meteorology, Environmental Modeling, Greenhouse Effect and Global Warming) and Theme 4 (Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development, Environmental Parasitology, Dynamics of Ozone and Bioaerosols, Environmental Microbiology and Bioremediation, Geospatial Analyses and Informatics, Forest Ecology and Ecophysiology, Biodiversity and Conservation, Pollution Biology, Nanotoxicology and Cancer Biology, Environmental Toxicology and Human Health, Microbial Communities in Nature and their Interaction, Molecular analyses of microbes). TS-I was chaired by Prof. AK Kumaraguru and co-chaired by Prof. CK Varshney. The opening talk of the session was delivered by Prof. Sudha Bhattacharya.



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The oral paper presentations in TS-I addressed at length the issues ranging from biological pollutants to air pollution and environmental modeling to remote sensing as a tool for identifying biological species. The talks also included topics of vanishing biodiversity and ecological imbalance. The session was an intriguing one, represented both by SES faculty speakers and student speakers. An excellent summary of the talks read out by the Chair, Prof. AK Kumaraguru at the end of the session drew it to a perfect close. Prof. CK Varshney, co-chair, wound up by giving his subjective inputs and affectionately blessing the School he had co-founded way back in 1974. The day ended with the closed door Advisory Committee meeting of the UGC-SAP-DSA-II in the VC office, Administration building, JNU.

The Technical Session II (TS-II) and the Poster Session II (PS-II) on the second day spanned 4 hours once again and saw 20 presentations made collectively from Theme 2 (Remote Sensing and Geoinformatics, Hydrogeology, Natural Hazards, Hydrogeochemistry, Climate Change Implication on Natural Environment, Ground water Hydrology, Environmental Geochemistry) and Theme 3 (Air pollution chemistry, Water Pollution Chemistry, Soil Pollution Chemistry, Environmental Impact Assessment, Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate Change, Biorenewable Resources, Solid and Hazardous Waste Management, Aerosol Chemistry). TS-II was chaired by Prof. GD Sharma and co-chaired by Prof. AK Kumaraguru. The opening talk of the session was given by Prof. Saumitra Mukherjee. The oral paper presentations in TS-II spoke in

detail on topics ranging through remote sensing and geoinformatics to infer groundwater quality, environmental monitoring and impact assessment of air pollution, specific issues with air pollution over Delhi and possible remedies, assessment of heavy metals in river Yamuna, the importance of life cycle assessment in pollution studies, the looming threat of e-waste and its impact on human health and the use of biochars to remediate soil and water environments. The session saw a mix of faculty and student speakers and was interesting for the listeners. At the end of the session, the Chair, Prof. GD Sharma thanked all the speakers and the audience.

All the posters in both the poster sessions, PS-I and PS-II were evaluated by a set of evaluators from each theme to decide the best poster awards. The two days of the Conference culminated into a Valedictory Session which was chaired by Prof. Saumitra Mukherjee. Among a total of 31 posters that were put up, five best poster awards, two runner-up awards and two consolation awards were presented to the winners by the External Expert and the Dean, SES. The successful event ended with thanks and appreciations and a hope that the zeal to safeguard our Environment shall continue to drive willing researchers to think out-of-the-box and develop methodologies in remediation. Lastly, the gathering assembled for a group photograph before dispersing for lunch.

**Meenakshi Dua, Assistant Professor  
Convener, NCEPIAR-2016  
School of Environmental Sciences**

## Pandit Hridya Nath Kunzru Memorial Lecture Series, 2016

The School of International Studies organised the prestigious Pandit Hridya Nath Kunzru Memorial Lecture Series, 2016, at SIS from 4 – 9 April, 2016. This series of lectures is the most prestigious outreach programme of SIS.

Pt. Hridya Nath Kunzru is a leading legal luminary and a celebrated name in India's anti-colonial struggle. He has had a long and distinguished career in public service. He was born in an illustrious Kashmiri family that had made Agra its home and had joined the Servants of India Society as a youth. A man of exceptionally keen intelligence, independent views and strong patriotism, he soon made his mark in the freedom struggle.



What set him apart from others was the spirit of selfless service, commitment to values and great modesty. Pt. Kunzru

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was a member of the Constituent Assembly of India, the States Reorganization Commission as well as Chairman of the UGC in temporary capacity (1956). In association with Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Pt. Kunzru set up the Indian Council of World Affairs on the eve of Indian Independence. Pt. Hridya Nath Kunzru was nominated for the Bharat Ratna – the highest civilian honor that this nation can bestow – but he declined to accept it on grounds of principle as he had argued against the institution of such awards in a democratic, egalitarian India. This lecture series commemorates a great son of India, thanks to whose farsightedness this school was born and systematic study of international relations began more than half a century ago. A postage stamp was issued in his honour in 1987.

In honour of Pandit Hridya Nath Kunzru, the School of International Studies, JNU has been organising the prestigious Kunzru Memorial Lecture Series annually for more than three decades now. Every year a particular theme within the larger disciplinary area of International Studies is chosen and a series of lectures is delivered by experts and scholars over weeks/days around the selected subject. Continuing with this tradition, this year the theme of the lecture series was 'Migrants and Refugees in International Affairs'. In the light of growing refugee crisis that has influenced all the major continents of the world, and ever increasing migration in the current phase of globalisation, the theme intended to explore issues, aspects and challenges pertaining to migration (both legal and illegal) and refugees in different regions all over the world. This year the Centre for European Studies was nominated to co-ordinate the Lecture Series. Dr. Sheetal Sharma, CES/SIS co-ordinated, planned and executed the lecture series, along with the support of Dr. Teiborelang T. Kharsyntiew, students, and staff members of CES and SIS. The faculty members of CES and SIS too supported this successful event.

The Lecture Series was inaugurated on 4<sup>th</sup> of April. Prof. Ajay Patnaik (Acting Dean SIS) delivered the welcome address and highlighted the significance of the lecture series. He thanked the Hon' Vice Chancellor, JNU, Prof. M Jagadesh Kumar for gracing the occasion and giving the inaugural address. In the inaugural address Prof. Jagadesh Kumar highlighted how over the years the process of migration has changed the nature and character of societies the world over and how it has led to mixing of cultures. He commented that as compared to the past, migration and travel has become easy in some respects

and difficult in other respects and vice-versa. Delivering the keynote address, Prof. BS Chimni from the Centre for International Legal Studies, offered a theoretical framework and an overview of the theme to understand issues related to migration, globalization and refugees. Over the entire week, speakers delivered lectures pertaining to the theme and deliberated about the specificities of migration and refugee problems in different parts of the world. On 5<sup>th</sup> of April, speakers from the Centre for West Asian Studies, Prof. AK Pasha and Dr. Vrushal Ghoble made presentations. The speakers discussed the causes and consequences of the refugee crisis in the Middle East. On 6<sup>th</sup> of April, a panel discussion of speakers from the Centre for European Studies was organized, focusing on the current refugee crisis in Europe. The panel comprised Prof. RK Jain, Prof. Ummu Salma Bava, Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, and Prof. Bhaswati Sarkar, and was chaired by Dr. Sheetal Sharma. The panelists analysed and offered economic, social, political perspectives on the crisis and talked about its security implications in Europe and how Europe was responding to the crisis. On 7<sup>th</sup> April, there were lectures presenting perspectives from three main regions/countries. Dr. Saumyajit Ray from the Centre for the US, Canadian and Latin American studies spoke on the United States, Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli from the Centre for Chinese Studies presented perspectives on China, and Prof. Sanjay Panday of the Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies discussed Russia. The speakers highlighted the specific nature of migrant communities and refugee population in these countries and how they influence local politics and society. On 8<sup>th</sup> of April, the Lecture Series focused on the South Asian region. Speakers from the Centre for South Asian Studies discussed the migrant and refugee situation in South Asia. Prof. SD Muni (Emeritus Professor, SIS) offered detailed insight on the movement of refugee populations, its causes and consequences with particular focus on regional security in South Asia. Prof. Sanjay Bhardwaj discussed issues of illegal migration from Bangladesh and the response of Indian State. Prof. Sangeeta Thapliyal offered insight on Tibetan Community in Nepal and analysed the social, political, and economic dynamics of the community. On 9<sup>th</sup> of April, the final day of Kunzru Memorial Lecture Series Prof. Jamal Moosa from the Centre for African Studies focused on Refugees from Africa and discussed the causes and consequences of movement of refugee population within different countries in Africa and

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outside the continent. Prof. Ajay Dubey discussed the role of Indian migrants and Diaspora community in influencing foreign policy with specific reference to India. Finally Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Rector, from the Centre for US, Canadian and Latin American Studies delivered the valedictory address. Prof. Mahapatra identified the trajectories and phases in the process of migration in history and deliberated upon social, cultural, and philosophical aspects of migration and its consequences. He highlighted how in contemporary times, issues related to ethnic and religious identities are making the situation of refugees complex and the issue of migration critical. The response to the lecture series was overwhelming

and students and scholars from JNU, and other national and international universities, attended all the sessions and lectures in large numbers. The audience also engaged in interesting and meaningful discussion with the speakers during the question and answer session scheduled at the end of lectures every day. As the trend has been for years, the participants who attended all the lectures were given Participation Certificates.

**Sheetal Sharma, Assistant Professor  
Centre for European Studies, SIS**

## National Workshop on Earthquakes and Landslides: Addressing Administrative and Technological Challenges in Building Community Resilience

Transdisciplinary Disaster Research Programme, JNU-NIDM in collaboration with the Manipur University organized a three-day workshop on “Earthquakes and Landslides: Addressing Administrative and Technological Challenges in Building Community Resilience” at Imphal, Manipur on 9-12 April, 2016. The workshop conducted five sessions undertaking the holistic regeneration of ideas for enabling sustainable solutions for the disaster prone areas in Manipur. The august gathering was marked by the presence of hundred delegates comprising administrators, State disaster management authority Representatives from Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Meghalaya, civil society organizations, academicians, experts. The aim was to discover spaces for differently abled, old and other vulnerable communities, and provide a platform for the women to come up with indigenous ideas in protecting their neighborhood and participating in a regular dialogue with the

local administration. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri. Hemochandra, the MLA elected from Singjamei of Manipur state and Shri Thockchom Meinya Singh, the Lok Sabha MP from Inner Manipur. The welcome address was given by the Vice chancellor of Manipur university, Dr. H Nanda Kumar Sarma, the keynote address by Shri. Kamal Kishore Member, National Disaster Management Authority, Shri. KM Singh former member of National Disaster Management Authority. The summary of the initiative and objective of JNU DRP, was illustrated by Prof. Amita Singh, Chairperson of the Center of Law and Governance JNU.

The workshop captured a few significant deliverables:

1. Identifying Priority regions/socio-economic-demographic-health-political factors requiring special attention in Manipur
2. Highlighting the interests of the Vulnerable Groups and mapping the Exclusions
3. Understanding existent community friendly technologies
4. Revisiting the legal framework and identifying accountability
5. Discussing strategies for administrative and community partnerships
6. Disaster Risk Mitigation Fund and its utilization.



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The workshop adopted participatory exercises to delve into establishing transdisciplinary approach in order to understand community resilience in Manipur.

Different research cluster sites, identified on the basis of documentations of past and recent landslides and earthquakes are 1. Chakpikarong – Thoubal, 2. Imphal- Churachandpur 3. Saikul – Noney. Experts, administrator's, professors and researchers had facilitated the study of the areas and the understanding of the weak areas. The workshop was also attended by international experts from Nepal and different parts of the country like Hyderabad, Bihar SDMA, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Sikkim. Disaster management organizations and institutes like NIDM, NDMA, North Eastern Hill council, MIAS, IIT Guwahati, NEHU shillong, DRP JNU core members, and eminent experts form Manipur University. The spectrum of rich knowledge and experience targeted to be gathered from the ground level civil society organizations like Save the Hills, World vision, CORE had illustrated experiences to offer a bottom up approach in resilience building and disaster preparedness. Attributes of the communities and solutions to reduce the risk of disasters remained significant under the broad umbrella by revisiting the administrative structure and the multifarious ways of reducing risks of the communities.

Transdisciplinary approach to the understanding of earthquakes and landslides have presented an enriching wealth of knowledge dealing with numerous perspectives and describing solutions to the problems as recommendations underlined as:

- Need to identify school children as resources for DRR training.
- Strengthening community preparedness
- Creating awareness and training the builders, masons for safe building and structures.
- Creating efficient Government response systems.
- The need to create employment opportunities for disaster survivors.
- Identifying strategies to decrease financial loss.
- Animal husbandry must have an important role in the National Disaster Management Plan of NEC
- Strengthening livelihood and identifying better strategies to achieve livelihood security.
- Efforts to decrease the rapid rate of shifting/ Jhum cultivation to decrease the rate of landslides.
- Creating road connectivity in the hilly areas to facilitate rescue operations.

The Manipur workshop also gathered rich information from the field sites. This enabled the understanding and addressing of issues related to administrative and technological challenges. The urgent and committed need for covering and draping the unprotected tumbling hills with disaster resilient afforestation and reforestation and the prevention of further deforestation formed a significant highlight. A community based awareness and plantation drive should be undertaken in collaboration with plantation experts and all stakeholders.

**Homolata Borah, Researcher  
Disaster Research Programme  
Centre for Excellence in Disaster Research**

## Eco-club, School of Environmental Sciences organized Earth Day

The national theme for Earth Day this year was “Caring mother Earth”. Our Eco-club, School of Environmental Sciences organized Earth Day, its annual event, on 22 April, 2016. Our aim was to provide a common platform for all those who are directly or indirectly involved in nurturing our dear mother earth. Although it was being organized for the first time at the university level, we saw a wide participation of students from different areas of study. Distinguished speakers from diverse fields, working in the field of environmental sciences were



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invited. The two day event starting on 21 April, 2016. On the first day, interactive activities such as audio-visual quiz, essay and creative writing, debate, painting and cartooning competition, all of whose theme revolved around environment, were organized throughout the day. Not only students from different schools won competitions but their refreshing thoughts also instilled new perspectives within us. The first day concluded with a Green run. It started from Sabarmati Dhaba, went around the ring road via the Administrative Block and ended at Sabarmati Dhaba once again. It was a small initiative towards directing people to go green. More than thirty students took part in this green event and made it successful.

The second day began with lighting of the lamp by Sri Jairam Ramesh, former Environment minister, our chief guest for the event, along with Prof. A. P. Dimri, coordinator of the event and Prof. P. K. Joshi. The speakers from different strata of society, who have made valuable contribution towards environment conservation were invited for the day. Sri Jairam Ramesh delivered a lecture on his recent published book "Green Signals: Ecology, Growth, and Democracy in India", sharing his integrated knowledge on environment and government policies. Anubhav Wadhwa, one of the youngest CEOs of India talked about Tyrelessly, an environmentally compliant End-of-

Life Tyre collection and disposal service and inspired us to take steps, no matter how small. The second half of the day started with the validation of paintings and photography exhibition by Dr. Surya Prakash, Technical officer and renowned Ornithologist, SLS, JNU and Mr. Anubhav Wadhwa. After that, a very informative talk was delivered by Prof. J.K. Garg, GGSIPU. He talked about the application of remote sensing for wetland management. Dr. Anil K. Gupta, head of Policy, Planning and Cross Cutting Issues Division & Training Cell, National Institute of Disaster Management and Dr. Govind Singh, Director of Delhi Green NGO, spoke about the need of environment education for sustainable development. Following the talk, prizes for the competitions organized were distributed by the Dean of the School. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Chadrashekhkar Azad V., Convener of School of Environmental Sciences.

The involvement of students from different backgrounds clearly showed that everyone was aware about environmental issues. The speakers invited from different walks of life, imparted their knowledge and shared their experiences, thus helping in developing a diversified view and stimulating our minds.

**Chandrashekhar Azad V., Research Scholar  
School of Environmental Sciences**

### "Release of Annual Reports", JNU-NIDM collaborative Disaster Research Programme

JNU – NIDM collaborative transdisciplinary Disaster Research programme released the JNU- NIDM collaborative publications on 9 June, 2016. The release of report was initiated by Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble minister, state for home Affairs and Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN resident coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, India. The release of the report was marked by the presence of around 100 delegates, comprising Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Pramod Kumar, Registrar, Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti Rector-II, Shri. Kamal Kishore, and Shri. R.K Jain, members NDMA, Gen. Gupta, Joint Secretary NDMA, Shri. OP Singh DG NDRF, Dr. Suman Sharma, Principal, LSR, Dr. Kumar Rekha, Head of Disaster Management, Noida, Minakshi Sinha, Reader NICFS, Professors of Miranda House, Kamla Nehru college, Indian Council of Medical Research, IIPA, ICMR, DRP core group members Prof. Amita Singh, DRP PI chairperson CSLG, Prof. Bupinder Zutshi Co PI DRP Director Admissions, Prof. Milap

Puni CSR, Prof. Mondira Dutta Center for Inner Asian Studies, Prof. GVC Naidu, Chairperson, Southeast Asian Studies, Dr. Nivedita Haran, IAS (Retd.) DRP Chief Consultant, Dr. Sunita Reddy, CSMCH JNU, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Director CIS JNU. The event was also attended by a large number of college students and faculty from Miranda House College, Kamla Nehru College, and Lady Shri Ram College.

The programme started with listing the activities covered during the year, including their outcome and research in disaster, the role of institutions in governance, the role of technology and communication, livelihood and agriculture and lessons learnt from different state and non-state actors.

The following reports were released during the event, which were covered under the ambit of the initiative of disaster research programme.

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1. International Workshop JNU NIDM collaborative programme on Disaster Research: The international workshop consisted of undertakings of 2nd World Congress on Disaster Management, 19 to 22 November, 2015, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India and Spatial governance Development, Planning Smart Cities and Disaster Management 17 – 21 November, 2015. The first conference covered multipolar sessions, which involved approximately one thousand disaster professionals focusing on the decrease of complexity of disaster, decrease in illiteracy, enhancing government equipment, mobilizing resources, and involvement of the community in disaster risk reduction. The second conference highlighted the specifics of disaster over space and time, and the significance of technological developments used as important tools to address issues pertaining to the warning systems. The study on coastal vulnerability from a global perspective was discussed in depth. It was also emphasized that management of natural and manmade disaster should consider local responses through community awareness, which could strengthen risk reduction during disasters. Several presentations were discussed in depth.
2. National Workshop JNU NIDM collaborative programme on Disaster Research: The initiatives covered under this umbrella are “Community Resilience and Institutional Preparedness”, 30 January – 2 February, 2016, Kolkata, Sundarbans, West Bengal and “Earthquakes and Landslides: Addressing Administrative and Technological Challenges in Building Community Resilience, 9 – 12 April, 2016, Imphal, Manipur. The first workshop brought about issues of periodic up-gradation and dissemination of location-based disaster risk information and risk maps obtained from geospatial information technology to build knowledge of government officials at all levels, communities at risk of exposure to disaster, volunteers, and the private sector. This could be attained through sharing experiences, lessons learnt, good practices, and training and education on disaster risk reduction. The second initiative in Imphal established some significant findings from the field and the following issues were addressed: the need to identify school children as resources for DRR training, strengthening community preparedness, creating awareness and training the builders, mansions for safe building and structures, creating efficient government response systems, the need to create employment opportunities for disaster survivors, identifying strategies to decrease financial loss, the importance of animal husbandry in the National Disaster Management Plan,



strengthening livelihood and identifying better strategies to achieve livelihood security, efforts to decrease the rapid rate of shifting/ Jhum cultivation to decrease the rate of landslides and creating road connectivity in the hilly areas to facilitate rescue operations.

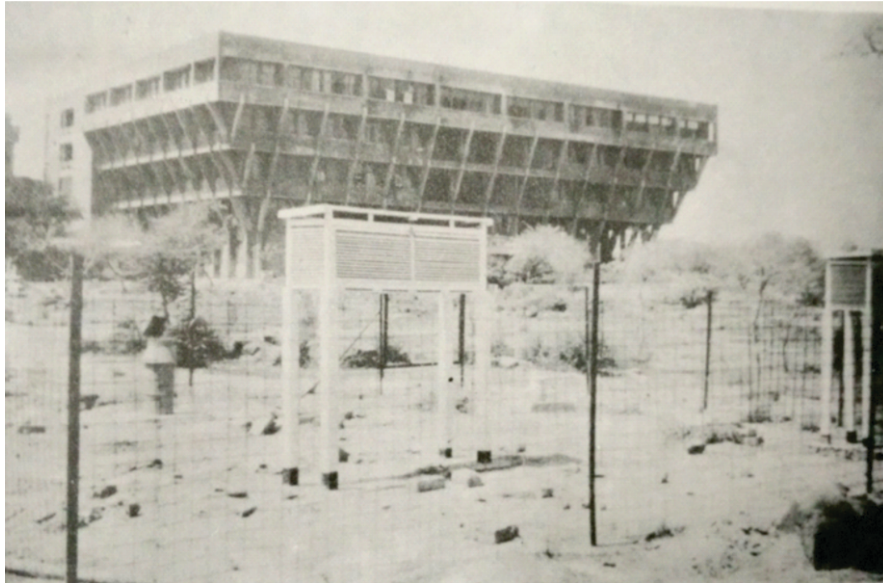
3. Research Report- JNU NIDM collaborative programme on Disaster Research: The sustainability of disaster risk reduction efforts had to be maintained by involving the youth indentifying the vulnerabilities in the spaces around their institutions. While the Principals of these colleges became the lead administrators, groups of students picked up from interdisciplinary disciplines, including the NSS and NCC, were placed under a committed teacher/s to visit the field around their college and be trained in disaster management. Six Delhi university Colleges, namely Miranda House, Lady Shri Ram, Kamla Nehru, Center of Law and Governance, JNU etc., were initially a part of this programme. The report contains significant findings from the research conducted by the Prof. Milap Punia CSRD, Prof. Bupinder Zutshi CSRD and Prof. Mondira Dutta SIS.
4. In House Activities of JNU NIDM Collaborative Programme on Disaster Research: the launching ceremony & national debate on “exploring social sciences tools in teaching disaster research”, 21 September, 2015 and the Lecture series undertaken by different disaster experts were covered under this programme. The initiatives were focused towards developing community resilience and enhancing the existing implementations of the given laws and bringing about a reduction in the risks posed by the different disaster events.

The initiatives enriched the understanding through collection of findings, facts on vulnerabilities and outlaying the bottom up solution of development of sustainable reduction in the loss and damage and reducing vulnerabilities of the communities.

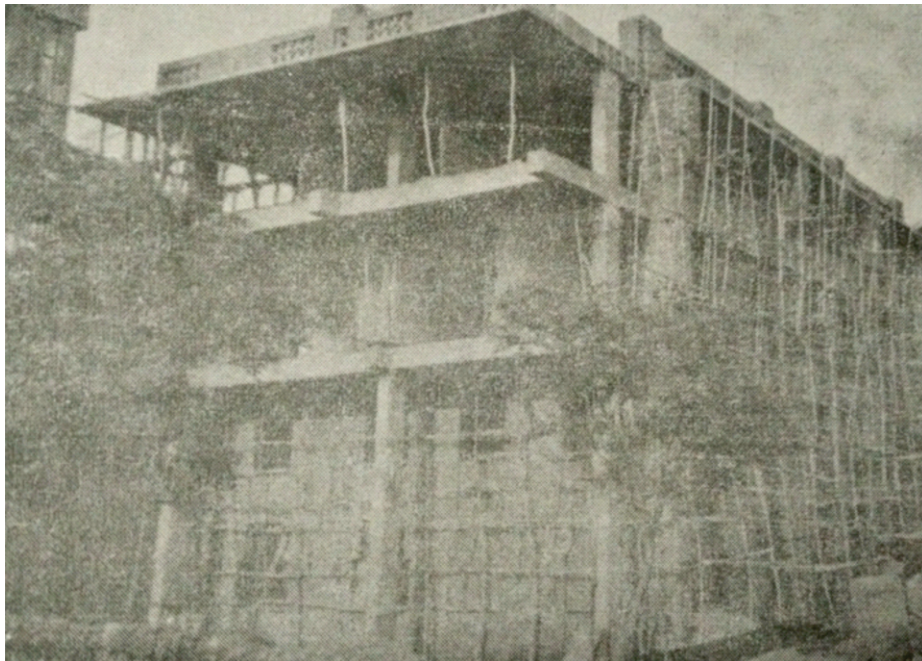
**Homolata Borah, Researcher  
Disaster Research Programme  
Centre for Excellence in Disaster Research**



# JNU NEWS



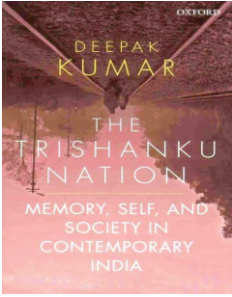
School of Life Sciences (1988)



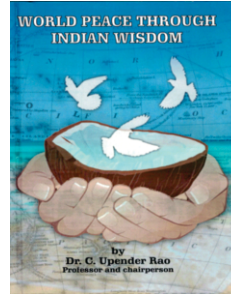
School of International Studies under construction (1988)



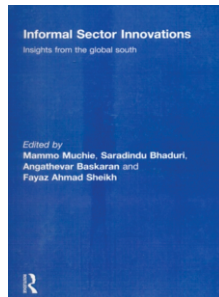
## Our Publications



“The Trishanku Nation, Memory, Self, and Society in Contemporary India ” by Prof. Deepak Kumar, the School of Physical Sciences, published by Oxford University Press, ISBN No: 9780199461530



“World Peace through Indian Wisdom” by Prof. C Upender Rao, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, published by DK Agencies (P) Ltd. ISBN 13: 9788178542898



“Informal Sector Innovations: Insights from the Global South”, Edited by Mammo Muchie, Prof. Sara dindu Bhaduri, Angathevar Baskaran, Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh, Centre for Studies in Science Policy, School of Social Sciences, published by Routledge, ISBN No: 9781138943520.

## Alumni Corner

### Interview with Mr. Shakeel Akhter, BBC Correspondent, New Delhi



**Mushtaq: How did your association start with JNU?**

**Mr. Akhter:** I come from a small town where the students were not much aware of JNU at that time. At that point, one of my relatives was studying in Lucknow University. He was a ware of JNU, as he had appeared for an entrance exam

here. I arrived here with him and joined the School of Languages in 1982. My journey in JNU thus began.

At that time, it had a reputation among the prestigious universities. Now, the university has many centres across India for entrance exams, but earlier, the entrance test was conducted only at the campus. Everyone had to come here to take the entrance test. I qualified the entrance and took admission in MA in 1982 in Urdu and then completed my M.Phil. in the same stream. I remember the day when I was working on my Ph.D. research, when I got a job in the BBC. After this chance, I finally left JNU to become a part of the BBC.

**Mushtaq: What was your first impression about JNU?**

**Mr. Akhter:** Even today, JNU, at least, is one of the most beautiful places in India. The first impression was unique. Half of the buildings were in down campus then, and many new buildings were under construction in the new campus with unique architecture. The Library, the School of Languages and the School of International Studies were in old campus and, as I remember, some hostels were in the new campus. JNU was a kind of island and initially it was just like an alien, very different from outside.

The most amazing part of the university was the political culture (which even today is the same as I believe). It was very heartening to see post-dinner discussions in the messes. I remember leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Raj Narain, Subramanian Swamy, Sitaram Yechuri and other contemporary political figures used to speak here. Who can forget V. P. Singh, who started his campaign from JNU? Those people whom I have seen just on television and heard about them, we were interacting as well as talking with them face to face. It was unbelievable, the first-hand experience to learn. JNU developed a very interactive culture, and that was its beauty and strength.

JNU culture was simple at that time. Even wearing a new shirt was a tough thing. People used to wear it as a sleeping gown for two-three days to make it look old and then only wear it outside

# Alumni Corner

## Mushtaq: How did JNU shape you and help you in your career?

**Mr. Akhter:** I did not do many jobs. I started my career with the UNI news agency and then moved to the BBC when I was in JNU, and I am still with the BBC. I think, whatever I am is because of JNU. I would have never been what I am today if I did not join JNU. My understanding is that JNU not only inculcates knowledge, but it also makes you an excellent human being or a humanist. Generally, outsiders perceive that JNU turns you into a leftist, but I feel that it makes you a liberal, a rationalist, a humanist and above all, a good citizen. JNU provided an opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds, regions, cultures and ideas. It evolved students with a much bigger horizon. I still enjoy my association with the campus and cherish every moment I spent on the campus.

## Mushtaq: Why did you choose journalism over academics or civil services?

**Mr. Akhter:** Actually, journalism was my natural choice right from my school days. This was one idea that I wanted to pursue in my life. My family did not like it, but it was in my heart. They wanted me to go for UPSC or any other competitive exam. But I had no interest in it. Journalism was the field which I chose and pursued.

## Mushtaq: How do you see the role of JNU in nation building?

**Mr. Akhter:** JNU is one of the finest institutions India could have. We must preserve and evolve it further. You will find JNUites in every field, from Civil Service to academics and journalism. The alumni of JNU have an unyielding sense of responsibility and humanism, wherever they are. They have a very different and positive approach towards issues confronting our country or the world. In that sense, JNU's role is very global.

## Mushtaq: How has JNU changed over the years according to you?

**Mr. Akhter:** I think the biggest difference is that in our time,

most of the students used to choose academics for their career, and many of them used to go abroad for further studies. Competitive exams like UPSC was not the priority for most of the people. Later, the priority and situation changed when JRF (Junior Research Fellowship) and a new class emerged out of the campus which was job focused and professional. A new generation grew which did not want to waste its time in doing Ph.D. or preparing for UPSC. Instead, it preferred getting jobs immediately after graduation or Masters. The time when most of the people used to do Ph.D. by choice is over. Later, due to lack of jobs, it became a compulsion to do that. But I think people have become much more efficient, and the young generation does not want to wait for years to get a job as they have no patience.

## Mushtaq: Any personal experience you wish to share?

**Mr. Akhter:** There are many memorable experiences which I would not like to share (laugh), but I remember that when I came here, there was a protest in the university on some issue and students were sitting on a hunger strike. The Vice Chancellor used to come every day to meet the students at their hunger strike site and used to sit with them. P. N. Srivastava was the VC, and he used to say that he was there as a teacher and guardian. This was a very touching experience for me that I had never imagined. This was how JNU was at that time. I believe this culture is still alive there in JNU.

## Mushtaq: Any message you would like to give to JNU community and in particular, to the students who want to choose journalism as their career?

**Mr. Akhter:** Just like the world economy, journalism at this moment is passing through a very challenging time in the world. Social and digital media and internet have changed the way the media works. But journalism has always been very fascinating and will remain fascinating. People, who have enthusiasm and zeal for journalism, must choose it. All the students of JNU are much aware of the social, political and economic issues, and they can do wonders if they choose journalism as a career. shakeel.akhtar@bbc.co.uk



Shri Suresh Kumar, Junior Assistant-Cum-Typist (Caretaker) passed away on Saturday, 4 June, 2016

Shri Ramesh Singh, Mess Helper, Narmada Hostel, passed away on Monday, 18 April, 2016

**We extend our condolences to the bereaved families.**

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

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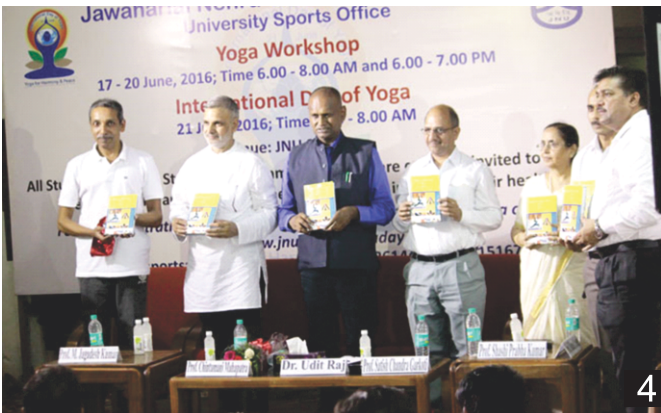
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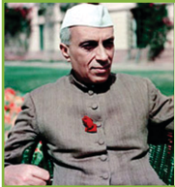
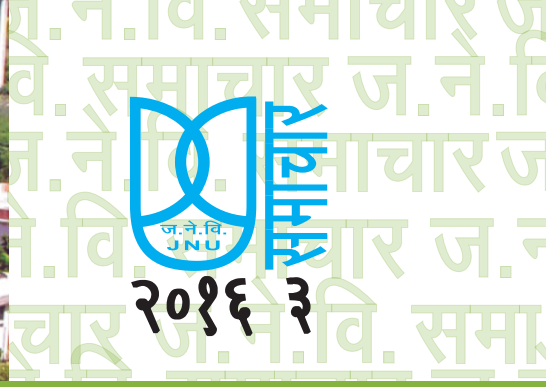
Please attach a passport size photograph also

# Photo Gallery



Celebration of  
International Yoga Day  
17 – 21 June, 2016





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

—जवाहरलाल नेहरू



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8. School of Life Sciences organized a farewell party for the outgoing M.Sc. IV Semester Students on 6 May, 2016. Photo shows: Group photographs of the outgoing M.Sc. IV Semester Students, SLS with Faculty Members & Staff.
9. A 4 member delegation from Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania visited JNU to meet the Vice Chancellor to discuss the academic relationship between the two institutions on 18 May, 2016. Photo shows: Members of Delegation from Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania.
10. School of Biotechnology organized a meeting to discuss the “Opportunities of Research & Funding by DFG-Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)” (German Research Foundation) on 16 June, 2016. Photo shows: Prof. Dr. Jörg Schneider, Head of the Division of International Affairs on Dais addressing faculty members, Prof. Satish C. Garkoti, Rector II, JNU, Mr. Krishnan Hariharan, Office Manager, DFG-India Office, Dr. Vaibhav Agarwal, Senior Scientific Officer, DFG-India Office, Dr. Ranjana Arya, Assistant Professor, School of Biotechnology, Dr. Manoj Sharma, Assistant Professor, School of Biotechnology.
11. A delegation from the University of Alberta visited JNU on 29 June, 2016 to meet Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor. Photo Shows: Mr. Sudhiranjan Banerjee, Commercial Officer, University of Alberta at the High Commission of Canada, Ms Maria Mathai, President to the Advisor (India), University of Alberta; Ms. Cen Huang, Associate Vice President, University of Alberta; Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor with other officials.



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