

# AAJ newsletter

NEWSLETTER OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ) is a non-profit society, established under the Statue 34 (I) of JNU Act, 1966. The aim and objectives of AAJ are to foster close bonds among JNU alumni across the globe as also between the JNU alumni and the University; to honour distinguished JNU alumni who have excelled and contributed in their respective spheres, and to have 'Chapters of the Association' within and outside India for furtherance of the AAJ objectives. AAJ upholds the democratic and inclusive traditions of JNU and strives for their promotion through various AAJ activities, annual and periodic lectures/seminars/symposia centered around themes that deepen understanding and appreciation of the values enshrined in the Preamble of the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

AAJ NEWSLETTER welcomes various achievements / activities / news from JNU alumni across the globe.  
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## Editorial Board

Prof. Devendra Kumar Choubey, Rajesh Kumar (Rajan), Prof. Rakesh K Tyagi, Prof. Meeta Narain, Dr. Ved Mitra

## AAJ's Proposed Forthcoming Events (2015-16)

Media Persons' Meet, Parliamentary Members' Meet, Bureaucrats' Meet, Academicians' Meet, Writers' Meet, Scientists' Meet, Social Activists' Meet, Social Scientists' Meet, Environmentalists' Meet.

[www.jnu.ac.in/AAJ](http://www.jnu.ac.in/AAJ)



## JNU recognises its alumni as important stakeholders in its continued quest for excellence in education

Professor Sudhir K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor, JNU & Patron, AAJ

I am happy to learn that the Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ) is launching its first newsletter on the occasion of Annual Meet this November.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that AAJ is putting its best efforts to promote better links between JNU and its alumni who have ventured into various fields and excelled as scientists, civil servants, literary critics, media experts, language experts, journalists, political leaders, social activists, technocrats, managers and entrepreneurs over the last 40 years and more. To further develop and promote the linkage between AAJ and University, JNU has also an Alumni Affairs cell.

AAJ aims to foster stronger relations among its alumni and others connected with the University. JNU recognizes its alumni as important stakeholders in its continued quest for excellence in education. It realises the enormous benefits that can come from the engagement and support of its alumni who have considerable expertise in many areas and can help identify strategic directions for JNU in the years ahead.

I send my good wishes for the success of AAJ and appreciate the efforts undertaken by the AAJ members.

## AAJ's 1<sup>st</sup> EC (2012-13)

The first elections for the Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ) were held on Sep 15, 2012 in accordance with the Constitution passed by the JNU Executive Council. Following members were elected for the AAJ's 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee: Prof. Ramadhikari Kumar (President); T. Ranganath (Vice President); Dr. Devendra Kumar Choubey (General Secretary); Dr. Rakesh K Tyagi (Joint Secretary); Dr. M. M. Kunju (Treasurer); Prof. Neera Bhalla Sarin (Member); Sandeep Mahapatra (Member); Dr. Qaiser Shamim (Member); Dr. Nishant K Ranjan (Member); Dr. J. C. Batra (Member).



As per the AAJ Constitution, Prof. G. J. V. Prasad was ex-officio member of AAJ EC. Later, the AAJ-GBM on Dec 8, 2013 unanimously nominated Sohail Hashmi and Rajesh Kumar as new AAJ-EC members.

### AAJ's 2<sup>nd</sup> EC (2014-16)

The three-member AAJ Election Committee comprising Dr V G Hegde (Convener), Uday Shankar and Kishore Jaiswal announced following members elected on Feb 23, 2015 for the AAJ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee: Prof. Devendra Kumar Choubey (President), Rajesh Kumar (Vice President), Pranav Kumar (General Secretary), Prof. Meeta Narain (Joint Secretary), Dr M M Kunju (Treasurer), Prof. D. K. Lobiyal (Member), Dr. Praveen Kumar Verma (Member), Dr. Ganpat Teli (Member), Dr. Anisur Rahman (Member), Sanjay Kumar Jha (Member) and T. Ranganath (Member).

### AAJ-GBM adopts its Constitution

AAJ-GBM, in its meeting held on Dec 8, 2013, discussed, approved and adopted the AAJ Constitution. Prof. Rakesh Tyagi (Convener), Dr. Qaiser Shamim, Dr. J. C. Batra and Sandeep Mahapatra were the members of the drafting committee.



### Vice Chancellor, JNU

As per the AAJ Constitution (Clause-4.5), JNU Vice Chancellor shall be the ex-officio Patron of AAJ and in that capacity shall enjoy all the privileges of a member. At present, Prof. S. K. Sopory is the Vice Chancellor of JNU, and therefore he is also the AAJ Patron.

### Chief Advisor (Alumni Affairs), JNU

As per the AAJ Constitution, the Chief Advisor (Alumni Affairs), JNU shall be the ex-officio member of the EC and shall form an official link between alumni and the JNU Administration in furthering the purposes of AAJ. Currently, Prof. K. P. Vijayalakshmi (2015-17) is Chief Advisor. She took charge from Prof. Neera Bhalla Sarin (2013-15). Earlier, Prof. G J V Prasad was Chief Advisor for 2011-13. He took charge from earlier Chief Advisor Prof. Anand Kumar.

### AAJ's 1<sup>st</sup> GBM (2013): A Recap

The 1st AAJ GBM, chaired by AAJ President Prof. R. Kumar, was attended by 45 alumni on Dec 8, 2013 at JNU Convention Centre. AAJ General Secretary Dr. Devendra Kumar Choubey presented the **Annual Report-2013** and Treasurer Dr. M. M. Kunju presented a report on its financial status.

### AAJ's 2<sup>nd</sup> GBM (2014): A Recap

The 2nd AAJ GBM was held on Nov 30, 2014 at Convention Centre. Chaired by AAJ president Prof. R. Kumar, this GBM was attended by 47 alumni. AAJ General Secretary Dr. Choubey presented the **Annual Report-2014** and Treasurer Dr. Kunju presented a report on its financial health.



### AAJ Road Map-2020

AAJ-EC, in its meeting held on Jan 9, 2015, deliberated, discussed threadbare and passed the proposal of **AAJ Road Map-2020** which summarises various projects of Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ). Its high points are: **AAJ Guest House with Alumni Library, Committee Room & Documentation Centre, AAJ Corpus Funds** and various other committees for alumni activities and network.

### AAJ Committees

The AAJ-EC, in its meetings on Jan 9, 2015 and Mar 20, 2015, approved various committees to strengthen the alumni activities and spread its network. These committees are: **AAJ Guest House Committee, AAJ Media & Public Relations Cell, AAJ Finance Committee, AAJ Academic Forum, AAJ Welfare Committee, AAJ Membership Drive Committee, AAJ Website Committee, AAJ Award & Fellowship Committee, AAJ Village Programme Committee, AAJ Cultural Programme Committee, AAJ Emergency Assistance Committee, AAJ India Policy Research Cell, AAJ Publication Cell, AAJ Journal Committee and AAJ Internal Activities Committee.** The tenure of each committee is for three years and each committee will have 15 members - 5 core members (one convener, one co-convener and three members), 5 members representing East, West, North, South and Central zone of India, and 5 members each representing Asia, Europe, America, Australia and Africa.

### AAJ Guest House

The AAJ-GBM discussed the creation of **AAJ Guest House with Alumni Library, Committee Room & Documentation Centre** on Nov 30, 2014. The GBM nominated Prof. Devendra Kumar Choubey (Convener), Prof. Talat Ahmad, Dr. R. Venkataramani, Vijay Kumar Srivastava, Punam Mehra, Dr. J. C. Batra, Dr. Dhiraj K. Singh and Dr. Pranav Kumar as members. The Guest House Committee and EC members held a series of talks with the JNU Administration including the then Registrar Dr Sandeep Chatterjee and PRO Poonam S Kudaisya and discussed the plan of the alumni guest house and submitted a detailed report to VC, JNU on Aug 3, 2015 for further action including allocation of land within the JNU campus. The JNU Engineering Department, headed by Pradeep Kumar and B S Rawat, submitted a preliminary estimate (based on PAR-2012) for Alumni Guest House to the tune of Rs. 7,68,93,528.87- subdivided into three phases i.e. Phase-I (Ground Floor: rooms, library and cafeteria), Phase-II (First Floor: rooms & documentation centre) and Phase-III (Second Floor: rooms & committee room).

Needless to say, the allocation of land for the construction of AAJ Guest House is of prime importance. It may be emphasised here that the **AAJ Guest House** construction will be borne, generated and funded by JNU alumni themselves.

### AAJ Annual Events (2013)

The 5-day Annual Events (Nov 6-10, 2013) started with Lecture Series in various schools. It began with discussion on *Iran and*

the Wider World in SIS, followed by *Why Science?* in SLS Auditorium. The Day-2 was largely focussed on various activities at SLLCS including a panel discussion on *The Role of Intellectuals in Society*. A panel discussion on *Inter-disciplinary in Social Sciences* in SSS was the focus of Day-3. On Day-4, a seminar on *Manufacturing Consent, Manufacturing Taste: Has Corporatization of Media Robbed Us of Choice?* was held at the JNU Convention Centre. Here, Hari Kumar, a noted journalist from *Deccan Herald* delivered the key-note address and AAJ-EC member Dr. Qaiser Shamim moderated it.

A Kavi-Sammelan & Mushaira, which was attended by poets like Unita Sachidanand, Suman Kesari, Durga Pd. Gupta, Jitendra Srivastav, J. C. Batra, Ahmad Mehfooz, Zahir Rehmati, Maula Baksh, Hadi Sarmadi, Shafi Ayub, Zafar Ansari, Muntazeer Qaimi and Javed Rahmani, marked the end of the five-day annual celebrations. Also, the children of JNU alumni presented a cultural show followed by dinner.

### 1<sup>st</sup> JNU Alumni Annual Lecture 2013

**Dr. Sanjaya Baru**, a well known journalist and writer, delivered a lecture on *Re-examining Nehru's Economic and Foreign Policy*. While Prof. Anand Kumar delivered an introductory note, JNU VC Prof. S. K. Sopory graced the occasion.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> JNU Alumni Annual Lecture 2014

**Prof. Talat Ahmad**, a JNU alumnus and Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, made an audio-visual presentation on *Climate Change & Rise of Himalayas: A Connection*. Prof. I S Thakur, a JNU alumnus and Dean SES gave the introductory note and JNU VC Prof. S. K. Sopory graced the occasion.

### AAJ Talk Series: A continuum

Jan 2, 2015: Hitendra Patel (Kolkata), Amitabh Sinha (Delhi) and Rupa Gupta (Burdwan) participated.



Mar 29, 2015: Surya Nath Singh (Jansatta) and Syed Mubin Zehra (Delhi University) shared their experiences.

Apr 29, 2015: Prof. Bal Ram Singh (Former Director, Centre for Indic Studies, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth) presented his viewpoint.

Jul 24, 2015: Mrinal Kanti Das (Retd. DGP, Manipur), Anurag Chaturvedi (Journalist) and T N Jha (Economist) made interesting observations on modern state of affairs.

### AAJ-JNUTA Talk

Under the JNUTA president Prof. Sanjay Kumar Pandey's chairmanship, a talk on *Media of Mumbai: Film, Crime and Business* was delivered by Anurag Chaturvedi, a Mumbai-based journalist.

## Alumni Achievements

Some of our alumni, **Nirmala Sitharaman**, **D P Tripathi**, **Sitaram Yechury**, **Bhagawati Prasad**, **Harischandra Meena** and **Udit Raj** are presently Members of Parliament, with some holding key portfolios in Union government.

In recent past, our alumni **Anjani Kumar Singh** (IAS) took over as Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar; **Tripurari Sharan** (IAS) was made Principal Secretary-Industries, Government of Bihar; and **Arun Deo Gautam** (IPS) was appointed as Home Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh.

In July 2015, **Devendra Kumar Choubey** had a unique distinction of participating in the SAARC Literary Festival on South Asian Poetry in Bangalore. Another JNU alumnus, **Uday Shankar** was conferred President's Medal last year for his exemplary service to the nation.

**Shakeel Ahmed Khan** was declared elected from Bihar's Kadwa assembly constituency in Seemanchal in the just concluded assembly polls.

### AAJ Chapters (National)

**Assam:** Dr Kandarpa Das, Convener (M: 09435569926); **Bihar:** Prof. Raghunandan Sharma, Convener (M: 08986215925), Kishore Jaiswal, Co-convener (M: 09430720737), Sanjay K Pandey, Co-convener (M: 09431080966); **Chandigarh:** Dr. Pampa Mukherjee, Convener (M: 09872805494); **Chhattisgarh:** Dr. Ambrish Tripathi, Convener (M: 08964053313), Suresh Kumar, Co-convener (M: 08889400015); **Gujarat:** Binod Kr. Singh, Convener (M: 09871009449), Dr. Umesh C Yadav, Co-convener (M: 07923260341); **Kerala:** Prof. Joseph Koippli, Convener (M: 09495683616); **Madhya Pradesh:** Anupam Rajan, Convener (M: 09425161391), Manoj K Sinha, Co-convener (M: 09425492644), Sunil K Prasad, Co-convener (M: 09752416954); **Manipur:** Prof. Yashwant Singh, Convener (M: 09436025438); **Odisha:** Padmalochan Behera, Convener (M: 09438851763), Dr. Khushi Pattnaik, Co-convener (M: 09040059570); **Telangana & Andhra Pradesh:** N V S Reddy, Convener (M: 09849004506); Co-convener Bibhuacharya (M: 09505175175); **Uttar Pradesh:** V K Singh, Convener (M: 09415367150), Dr. Vipin K Neeraj, Co-convener (M: 09412585875); **Uttarakhand:** Dr Sabiruddin, Convener (M: 09756504727); Co-convener Sarita Jaitly (M: 09837341580); **Vidarbha:** Dr Umesh Kumar Singh, Convener (M: 09423307797); **West Bengal:** Dr. Hitendra Kumar Patel, Convener (M: 09230511567).

### AAJ Chapters (International)

**Dubai:** Amrendra Kumar (amrendra@aurohill.com); **Mauritius:** Devina Akshaybar (fresh.jnu@gmail.com); **Moscow:** Anjani Kumar Das (anjanikdas@gmail.com); **Singapore:** Alka Jha (alkajha06@yahoo.com).

### From Horse's Mouth

**Pallavi Prakash Jha**, daughter of Dr. T. N. Jha, a JNU alumnus (1973-79), came from Mumbai to visit JNU campus and AAJ office. She says, "I spent the entire day with my dad here, what an experience! AAJ initiatives are an inspiring and mesmerising story. Even a silent stone seemed to tell a story."

Says **Kumar Ritwik**, son of Rajesh Kumar, a JNU alumnus (1986-88), "JNU is one constant in my family's itinerary whenever we decide to venture out on weekends since the past decade and a half. And I must say it has never been a disappointment; here every tree, rock and bus stop speaks a story for itself. From Periyar to Parthsaarathi, Ganga to Gopalan; JNU stands amidst the nature's beauty away from the neckbreaking speed of selfish cosmopolitan life where cooperation precedes competition."

## AAJ Lifetime Members

Currently, we have 80-plus lifetime members. We hope to touch the magic figure of 100 soon. Following are our Lifetime Members:

1) Prof. Ramadhikari Kumar; 2) T. Ranganath; 3) Prof. Devendra Kumar Choubey; 4) Prof. Rakesh K. Tyagi; 5) Dr. M. M. Kunju; 6) Dr. Qaiser Shamim; 7) Dr. Jagdish Chander Batra; 8) Rajesh Kumar; 9) Dr. Ved Mitra Shukla; 10) Uday Shankar; 11) Prof. Niranjana Chakraborty; 12) Prof. Gobardhan Das; 13) Dr. Ganpat Teli; 14) Prof. Gordhan Ram; 15) Dr. Subhra Chakraborty; 16) Poonam Mehra Natarajan; 17) Vijay Kumar Fotedar; 18) Dr. Praveen Kumar Verma; 19) Kheraj; 20) Dr. Vineet Narain; 21) Prof. Talat Ahmad; 22) Indu Sharma; 23) Prof. Durga Prasad Gupta; 24) Prof. Mohammad Mujtaba Khan; 25) Dr. Dhiraj Kumar Singh; 26) Krishan Pratap Singh; 27) Yasmeen Hasan; 28) Dr. Venkatachala G. Hegde; 29) Dr. Rakesh Kr. Verma; 30) Dr. Anisur Rahman; 31) Prof. Tukaram Fulzele; 32) Dr. Arun Kumar; 33) Dr. Gaikwad Ramesh Pandhrinath; 34) Prof. D. K. Lobiyal; 35) Sunil Kumar Prasad; 36) Prof. Suman Kumar Dhar; 37) Anju Saini; 38) Sanjay Kumar Jha; 39) Alka Jha; 40) Dr. Pranav Kumar; 41) Prof. Neera Bhalla Sarin; 42) Prof. Rana P. Singh; 43) Dr. R. Venkataramani; 44) Dr. Surae Soren; 45) Dr. Suryanandini Narain; 46) Prabhat Singh; 47) Prof. Mahesh Kumar Bansal; 48) Dr. G. Jitendra Sharma; 49) Ram Bux Jat; 50) Abul Hayat; 51) Dr. Shaheen Ansari; 52) Prof. Meeta Narain; 53) Prof. Bal Ram Singh; 54) Kamal Kant Sharma; 55) Binod Kumar Singh; 56) Padmalochan Behera; 57) Rahul Krishna; 58) Punita Makker; 59) Dr. Umesh Chand Singh Yadav; 60) Dr. Akhlaque Ahmad 'Ahan'; 61) Dr. Neelam Kumar; 62) Dr. Jagannath Ambagudiya; 63) Kamalaksha Das; 64) Nusrat Jabeen Siddiquee; 65) Sarfaraz Ahmad; 66) Hari Mohan Nagepalli; 67) Amita Joshi; 68) Bhargav Mitra; 69) Dr. Varsha Sharma; 70) Abhai Pratap Singh; 71) Dr. Usha Mina; 72) Dr. Kiran Singh Verma; 73) Dr. T. Srinivasa Rao; 74) Prof. Agam Pd Singh; 75) Dr. Gyanendra Kumar; 76) Dr. Dheeraj K Nite; 77) Ranjanesh Sahai; 78) Amiya Chandra; 79) Udit Raj; 80) K. D. P. Rao; 81) Mukesh K. Sinha; 82) Kundan Yadav; 83) Manoj K. Sinha; 84) Sharad C. Srivastava; 85) Nadeem Ahmad Kazmi; 86) Navneet Anand; 87) Sanuja Beri; 88) Jyoti Kumar; 89) Sunil Sudhakar.

## AAJ draws alumni from across the globe

There are surprises galore...from across the globe...JNU has its charm...it still mesmerises every JNUite, giving a nostalgic feeling. Ganga Dhaba, Parthasarathi Plateau, Neelgiri Dhaba, Gopalan Canteen, KC, Kitcha, Mamu ka Dhaba, Ashok Dada from Jawahar Book, Munna Saloon/Poorvanchal, Udipi, Priya Cinema, Munirka still drive us crazy. Now, the campus has one more compelling attraction: **Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ) @ 101, JNU Convention Centre, JNU Campus, New Delhi-110067**. Recently, Bal Ram Singh from Boston/USA, Mrinal Kanti Das, ex-DGP, Manipur, Binod Kumar Singh, an IRS officer, T N Jha from Mumbai, Naresh Santhanam and Sharmila Seshan from Moscow made surprise visits to AAJ Secretariat. Other visitors include Prof. Prasenjit Sen (Rector, JNU), R. K. Singh, Bhargav Mitra, Pradeep Kumar, Renuka Bhanut, Satvinder Kaur, Ranendra Renu, Sunil Sudhakar, Satya Bhushan, Kishore Jaiswal, Rahul Krishna and several others.

Such strong longing by alumni to visit JNU campus even on trivial pretexts is laudable and promises a bright future for AAJ. Let us all unite and pledge to make AAJ a milestone.

## A PEEP INTO PREVIOUS ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER



**मुझे खुशी है कि एल्युमनी एसोसिएशन ऑफ जेएनयू अब स्वायत्त रूप से चल रही है**

जेएनयू एल्युमनी और विश्वविद्यालय की रेक्टर प्रो. सुधा पई से डॉ. गणपत तेली की बातचीत

जेएनयू की एल्युमनी के रूप में आज आप जेएनयू को किस तरह से देखती हैं?

जेएनयू एक महत्वपूर्ण शिक्षा केन्द्र है। आज देश के कोने-कोने से लड़के-लड़कियाँ अपनी पढ़ाई के लिए जेएनयू को वरीयता देते हैं। यहाँ से पढ़कर निकले छात्र-छात्राएँ अलग-अलग क्षेत्र में जाकर अपना काम कर रहे हैं। एल्युमनी एसोसिएशन की भूमिका भी महत्वपूर्ण है। मुझे खुशी है कि एल्युमनी एसोसिएशन ऑफ जेएनयू अब स्वायत्त रूप से चल रही है। मुझे उम्मीद है कि यह तमाम पुराने छात्रों के एक साथ आने का मंच बनेगी।

आपके अनुसार जेएनयू के एल्युमनी की विश्वविद्यालय और समाज में क्या भूमिका होनी चाहिए?

शिक्षा एवं शोध, समाज सेवा, नौकरशाही, राजनीति, पत्रकारिता जैसे कई क्षेत्रों में आज जेएनयू से पढ़कर निकले लोग महत्वपूर्ण काम कर रहे हैं। ये सब लोग जेएनयू के एम्बेसेडर हैं। समावेशी और लोकतांत्रिक समाज का विचार हम जेएनयू में पाते हैं और यही विचार व्यापक समाज में ले जाने की आवश्यकता है। हमारे एल्युमनी यह काम कर भी रहे हैं। उन्हें विश्वविद्यालय की छवि निर्माण करने और उसे बनाए रखने का काम भी करना चाहिए। वे जिस किसी क्षेत्र में हैं, जेएनयू की अकादमिक और आर्थिक मदद भी कर सकते हैं।

एल्युमनी एसोसिएशन ऑफ जेएनयू और विश्वविद्यालय के आपसी संबंधों से आपकी क्या अपेक्षाएँ हैं?

एसोसिएशन जेएनयू से संबद्ध है लेकिन अपने आप में यह स्वतंत्र संगठन है। मैं इससे जुड़ी हुई हूँ, इसकी गतिविधियों में शामिल होती हूँ। मैं उम्मीद करती हूँ यह जेएनयू के पुराने छात्रों को वर्तमान छात्रों से जोड़ने में सफल हो पाएगा और यह संगठन जेएनयू को विभिन्न तरीकों से मदद करेगा।

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