



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 objective. 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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## In Conversation with...



A Conversation with **Prof. Benjamin Zachariah**, Forschungszentrum Europa, Universität Trier, Germany, and currently Fellow, JNIAS

**Akash Raha: As an academic, how did your stint with JNIAS, JNU help with your academic goals?**

**Prof. Zachariah:** JNU is always a productive space to think, write and research, and a stint away from my everyday job enabled me to do some writing, as well as some archival work (at JNU and in Delhi generally). I gave a few talks, lectured, and also attended some classes. Being at a university such as JNU gives you a great opportunity to participate in all aspects of university life. JNIAS itself, as it is organized now, can be a bit isolating, though it's a very pleasant place to live. But I worked closely with Professor Dhruv Raina at the ZHCES, and because I had academic engagements outside JNIAS, it was a productive time.

**Akash Raha: Your academic pursuits have taken you around the world. What are some of the areas where JNU can improve and learn from top Universities in the world?**

**Prof. Zachariah:** Everywhere in the world, the autonomy of universities is being subordinated to authoritarian governments or the imperatives of market forces, in some cases both together. Perhaps the world has much to learn from JNU, in terms of the spirit and tenacity with which both staff and students have resisted the attacks of government and market forces, and I wish them every success in the difficult times to come.

But I don't just want to reverse your question. I'd say JNU could definitely benefit from looking closely at codes of conduct for teaching staff vis-à-vis students. There are widely divergent practices of interaction or supervision, and some of them are, by international standards, simply offensive. Members of faculty can be patronizing or rude, or over-familiar. Obviously, the existence of institutions like GSCASH ought to prevent the more flagrant offences; but a code of conduct would ensure a level of comfortable and ethical interaction for both staff and students.

Simply in terms of academic excellence, I'd say all the world's academic institutions are in a similar mess: too much attention to quantitative output, too little effort to assess the actual quality of an academic contribution. But the first step – and this has to be learned from the rest of the world, even if by indirections, i.e. by learning what has not worked and what has been harmful – is to protect the academic environment of a university from the regular attacks that will increase under the

auspices of the current regime in India. Turkey is a good example of learning what might well happen in India: academics have been dismissed in large numbers and in many cases imprisoned for daring to show dissent to the regime. But dissent is, of course, the job of an academic, if they take their jobs seriously – why do we stress 'originality' in all academic fields if we are simply to produce regime-compatible knowledge?

**Akash Raha: I understand that you are interested in the issue of nationalism and fascism. Why do you think there is a surge in Nationalist politics from the US to the UK; from France to Austria; and from Turkey to India?**

**Prof. Zachariah:** There's no single easy answer to this, except at the most general level of a crisis of market capitalism. Democratic forms of government are compatible with periods of confident capitalism – I remember Karl Marx, in the 18th Brumaire, makes the remark that the bourgeoisie sometimes becomes afraid of the freedoms it has given itself. But the question has also to be asked from the other direction – it's a question that Antonio Gramsci asked in a period of defeat: why do people participate in the erosion or abolition of the conditions for their own freedom?

People seem to be generally frustrated with their inability to live decent lives, and in the absence or erasure of alternatives that suggested that ordinary people had to organize themselves to change the conditions of their lives, they look to top-down solutions. And to blame other people: refugees, Muslims, the European Union, or whatever suitable local scapegoat they can find. A politics of resentment often feeds into right-wing, ultra-nationalist or fascist projects of control. And it's because the larger systemic failures seem to be out of the reach of change: we've been told for over a generation now that capitalism is the only alternative: even modest social-democratic modifications to capitalism are under major attack. Now if you can tell people they are suffering because undeserving outsiders are getting the benefits they themselves deserve – as members of the authentic nation – there's a propensity to believe that.

The biggest failure of such systemic explanations historically, for instance in the core period of fascism from the 1920s to the 1940s, was that it assumes a kind of conspiracy on the part of capitalists with right-wing governments. This is of course true, but it isn't enough of an explanation without accounting for mass movements of the right.



## In Conversation with...

**Akash Raha: How do you think current developments in politics affect academics? What is the way forward for academics in the upcoming years?**

**Prof. Zachariah:** Academic freedom is increasingly being eroded in the name of loyalty to the state, and academics, especially in the humanities and social sciences, are being called upon to defend the state and to reproduce the ideological consensus that the state needs to continue to oppress sections of its population.

In a slightly longer perspective, though, we'd find that this is a matter of degree. During the Cold War, the Soviet Bloc explicitly demanded ideological conformity, but the Western Bloc performed a kind of 'freedom', where – within strict limits, of course – academic freedom became part of the legitimization of 'Western democracy'. Conformity was generated by funding ideologically desirable outcomes, and starving its opponents, often making dissenters unemployable – so 'freedom' was even then a matter of degree. We should therefore be wary of uncritically embracing an idealized version of this 'freedom' model. But we should also recognize that during the Cold War, this performance of freedom did provide more spaces of dissent than under neoliberal university models. Does it need to be reiterated that neoliberalism isn't liberal at all in a political sense?

**Akash Raha: Public universities are shutting down their humanities and hard science departments around the**

**world. Do you see this trend continuing in India?**

**Prof. Zachariah:** Yes. Or made meaningless. Such attempts will succeed in turning Indian research into an isolated, self-referential bunch of incompetents. If by 'hard sciences' you mean fundamental research that cannot be easily instrumentalised, I'd say that's also to be expected.

**Akash Raha: It is often said that JNU has a very vibrant political atmosphere; what were your impressions?**

**Prof. Zachariah:** I'm not sure that's still the case. It's true that there are lots of arguments, but they are being channelled into an unproductive binary of identity-vs-class. That makes it all a bit ridiculous and self-indulgent.

**Akash Raha: With the implementation of the UGC gazette notification, what would you like to tell young, eager, students and researchers who are waiting to make a mark in academics?**

**Prof. Zachariah:** Spaces will shrink further, and academic freedom will have to be defended politically. Academics was not meant to be a job, but more a vocation: it requires more commitment, more sacrifices, and more courage than most jobs. We will, as academics, have to engage more directly in political struggles than we have hitherto been accustomed to. Without that engagement, we shall not have the spaces to do anything meaningful academically.

## Movements & Appointments

### New Appointments/ Deans/ Directors/ Chairpersons

- Dr. Mahesh Ranjan Debata as Director, UGC funded Central Asia Area Studies Programme, Centre for Inner Asian Studies, School of International Studies, for a period of two years.
- Dr. Paulraj Rajamani, School of Environmental Studies as Proctor, for a Period of two years.

### Retirements & Resignations

- Prof. B. S. Chimni, Centre for International Legal Studies, School of International Studies.
- Prof. Sudha Bhattacharya, School of Environmental Sciences.
- Prof. S.K. Kejariwal, Group of Adult Education, School of Social Sciences.
- Dr. Rajesh Kumar Chander, Associate Professor, Centre for

the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion, School of Social Sciences.

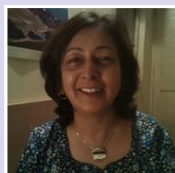
- Smt. Krishna Devi Bhatia, Assistant Finance Officer, Finance & Accounts Department.
- Shri V.N. Sekar, Section Officer, Inter Hall Administration.
- Smt. Bhagwati Pant, Private Secretary, O/o Controller of Exam.
- Shri Krishna Kumar Kaushik, Security Assistant, Security Office.
- Shri Ram Das, Mess Helper, Sutlej Hostel.
- Shri Ram Charan, Sanitary Guide, Jhelum Hostel.
- Shri Rajindra Singh, Security Guard, Security Office.

## Achievements / Awards

### जेएनयू का देश के शीर्ष विश्वविद्यालयों में दबदबा कायम

देश के शीर्ष विश्वविद्यालयों की सूची में जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय (जेएनयू) का दबदबा कायम है। बेहतरीन शिक्षण संस्थानों की सूची में जेएनयू छठे नंबर पर है। वहीं, शीर्ष विश्वविद्यालयों की सूची में जेएनयू दूसरा स्थान पाने में कामयाब रहा।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों की इंडिया रैंकिंग जारी की। मंत्रालय ने पिछले साल से उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों की रैंकिंग जारी करने का सिलसिला शुरू किया है। इस बार शिक्षण संस्थानों की व्यापक रैंकिंग (ओवर अल) और डिग्री कालेजों की रैंकिंग की दो नई श्रेणियां शुरू की गई हैं।



**Prof. Sadhana Naithani**, Centre for German Studies, SLL&CS has been elected President of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR: [www.isfnr.org](http://www.isfnr.org)). The ISFNR is a global organization of scholars of traditional and contemporary forms of folk narrative.



**Prof. Dinesh Mohan**, School of Environmental Sciences has been appointed as Adjunct Professor at University of Southern Queensland (USQ), Australia in the International Centre for Applied Climate Sciences.

Center for Studies in Science Policy, JNU is among the Top Science and Technology Think Tanks in 2016 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, published by the Think Tanks and Civil Society Program (TTCSP) of University of Pennsylvania, USA.

**प्रोफेसर देवशंकर नवीन** को बिहार सरकार के राजभाषा विभाग का विद्यापति सम्मान मातृभाषा मैथिली एवं राष्ट्रभाषा हिन्दी में अपनी रचनात्मकता के विशिष्ट योगदान हेतु बिहार सरकार के राजभाषा विभाग ने दिनांक 30 मार्च 2017 को विशिष्ट कवि, कथाकार, समालोचक, अनुवाद-चिन्तक देवशंकर नवीन को फणीश्वरनाथ रेणु हिन्दी भवन सभागार, पटना में विद्यापति सम्मान से सम्मानित किया। भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र, जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय, नई दिल्ली में प्रोफेसर पद पर कार्यरत प्रोफेसर नवीन को यह सम्मान सुविख्यात कवि केदारनाथ सिंह के हाथों दिया गया। सम्मान स्वरूप उन्हें प्रशस्ति-पत्र, प्रतीक-चिह्न, अंग-वस्त्र एवं पचास हजार रुपए का चेक प्रदान किया गया। मैथिली-हिन्दी में उनके द्वारा लिखित, सम्पादित, अनूदित लगभग चार दर्जन पुस्तकें भारत के सभी श्रेष्ठ प्रकाशन संस्थानों से प्रकाशित हैं।



**Mr. Jogesh Rout**, Ph.D. scholar working under the supervision of Dr. Poonam Mehta, School of Physical Sciences, has been selected for the prestigious Rajendran Raja Fellowship [rajafellowship.pdf]. This will allow Mr. Rout to visit the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, USA and work with the leading experts on beam line optimization with new physics scenarios in the context of Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE). For more details, see [[http://www.fnal.gov/pub/forphysicists/fellowships/rajendran\\_raja/](http://www.fnal.gov/pub/forphysicists/fellowships/rajendran_raja/)]

## Campus Activities

### Cultural and Sports Events organized by JNU Staff Cultural and Sports Club

The JNU Staff Sports and Cultural Club organized a Cultural Programme on 18 November, 2016 in the Convention Centre to promote talent amongst the non-teaching employees of the University as well as giving their wards an opportunity to showcase their talent. Apart from this, a Sports Competition was also organized for non-teaching employees of the University. These events were organized by the JNU Staff Sports and Cultural Club which consists of the following elected Members:

1. Sh. Satyawan – President
2. Sh. Jitender Kumar – Vice-President
3. Sh. Vinod Chamoli – General Secretary
4. Sh. Saurabh Singal – Joint Secretary
5. Sh. Upender Prasad Gond – Treasurer

The following Executive Members have also been included in the Club for providing support and also strengthening this Club to work efficiently:

1. Shri Amrish N. Gajjar
2. Shri Anwar Ali
3. Shri I. Tirkey



## Campus Activities

4. Shri Manjeet Singh
5. Shri Prem Singh Shahi
6. Shri Rajendra Badola
7. Shri Shambhunath Sarkar
8. Shri Surender Singh Rawat
9. Shri Vinod Kumar
10. Shri Vasiullah Khan

This Cultural Programme went on for more than four hours followed by the high tea for all the staff members who attended it as well as for all the participants. The Registrar of the University was the Chief Guest for this event. This Programme was inaugurated with lighting the lamp by the Registrar and Office Bearers of JNUSA. In his opening remarks, the Registrar emphasized on arrangement of this kind of Cultural Programme in the JNU Campus for the staff and their wards and further assured to give all kind of support for organizing the same. It is needless to mention here that there are lots of staff members who have special talent in singing/dancing and also there is a lot of latent in the wards of the JNU employees.

JNU Staff Sports and Cultural Club also organized a Sports Event for regular staff members of the University. This Sports Event was held from 8 to 10 February, 2017 in JNU Stadium Complex



as well as in Tefla's Badminton Court. This event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University and in his opening remarks, he emphasized on organizing this type of sports event and further advised that it should be continued throughout the year and this practice should not be stopped after completion of this Sports Event. The Vice-Chancellor further advised the staff members to promote the use of bicycle to lead a healthy life.

In this event, many staff members took part with great enthusiasm and gave their best efforts to compete and win. The event included many types of athletic competitions, indoor games like Table Tennis, Badminton, Carrom, and also some outdoor games like Cricket, Football, Kabaddi, Tug of War and

Volleyball. The success of this Sports Event proved that JNU Staff members are not only efficient in performing their official duties but are also extremely good in Sports activities.

The prize distribution ceremony was organized by the JNU Staff Sports and Cultural Club on 22 March, 2017 at 2.00 p.m. in the JNU Convention Centre. Many prizes were distributed to the winners of various Sports Events and also to all the participants of the Cultural Programme. A life time achievement award was also given to Mr. Subodh Bali for his overall contribution to the University. Prizes were distributed by Dr. Pramod Kumar, Registrar, JNU and also by Mr. Vikram Singh, AD (PE) and Ms. Poonam Kudaisya, PRO, JNU.

Thus two major events were organized by the JNU Staff Sports and Cultural Club and both have been a success with the support and participation of the JNU non-teaching staff members and their wards. These events were celebrated in the Campus as a festival and everybody came together and strengthened the bonding amongst each other. These events are important as they allow the Staff members to join hands and interact with each other and also release the pressure of work to some extent. We hope to have some more new additions and improvements next year and look forward to it.

**Shambhunath Sarkar & Saurabh Singal**  
**JNU Staff Cultural & Sports Club**

### CRS participation in the Days of Russian Language, Literature and Culture

The Russian Science and Culture Centre, New Delhi celebrated the Days of Russian Language, Literature and Culture on 15 February, 2017 by organizing events like Quiz, essay writing, painting, Russian poetry recitation, translation, singing, Russian dance for the students of Russian Language. The B.A students of the Centre of Russian Studies, SLL&CS participated in these events and competed with students from Delhi University, Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut, Dr. B.R Ambedkar University, Agra, Amity University, Noida, B.P.S.W.U., Sonapat, and the Institute of Russian Language at the Russian Science and Culture Centre.



# Campus Activities

Despite tough competition, students of CRS performed extremely well in all the events and won many prizes. Students of CRS won the First position in English Quiz, Second position in Russian Quiz, Third position in Russian Poem recitation, Third Position in Painting, First position in Russian Dance, Second position in Translation, Second position and a Consolation prize in Singing.

**Meeta Narain, Chairperson  
Centre of Russian Studies, SLL&CS**

## CRS Research Scholars' Seminar (Russian Language, Translation, Literature and Culture Studies)

The Centre of Russian Studies organized a Research Scholars' Seminar on Russian Language & Translation, Literature and Culture Studies on 1 – 2 March, 2017. This Seminar was mainly for the M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars of the Centre. This is the first time such a Seminar was held in the Centre where a platform was provided to our scholars to make presentations on their ongoing research work and highlight the progress of their research.



The Seminar was well attended. In all 22 M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars of the Centre, whose research topics were approved, participated in this 2-day Seminar. Day One was dedicated to the presentations on language and translation, whereas on Day Two presentations were made on culture and literature. The presentations were followed by a round table discussion to evaluate the issues and challenges of carrying out research. All CRS faculty members took part in this discussion and gave suggestions on how to improve the research output and quality of work.

**Meeta Narain, Chairperson  
Center of Russian Studies, SLL&CS**

## Central Library JNU, renamed as Dr. B R Ambedkar Central Library

On 14 April, 2017, the Central Library JNU has been formally renamed as Dr. B R Ambedkar Central Library with the unveiling of

the bust of Dr. Ambedkar in the central hall of the Library by Shri Milind Kamble, Chairman, DICCI. On the occasion, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble HRD Minister sent his video message to congratulate the fraternity of JNU community on celebrating the 126<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar and renaming the library after him. In his video message he elaborated that Dr B R Ambedkar was from a poor family and through his hard work he undertook higher education and later gave birth to the Constitution of India. In his video message, the Minister also said education for students in universities was subsidised by the people of the country and so students should aim to give back to society in whatever career they choose.



In his welcome address, Dr. Ramesh C Gaur, University Librarian explained various new facilities and services added to the Central Library. Dr Gaur briefed about the renovated hall with new lighting and ambience. The fire-fighting system in the entire Library will be operationalised soon. In addition, a new Reading Room with a capacity of 100 students has been created on the first floor. The Helen Keller Unit which meets the needs of visually impaired students has been expanded in the Library. More space has been created on the ground floor to provide user-centric support facilities like submission of theses and dissertations, IT support, plagiarism and reference management support. A new service Digital Scholarship will be launched soon. Separate entrance for office area, emergency exits, accessible toilets, a new and bigger property counter, are some more new facilities. The Periodicals section has been shifted to the first floor. So now there will be more space in the research reading hall.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof M. Jagadesh Kumar formally renamed the Central Library and Library Road after Dr. B R Ambedkar. In his inaugural address Prof. Kumar congratulated the hard work done by Dr Gaur and his team. He mentioned that the Library is the life line of students and renaming it in the name Dr. Ambedkar is truly justified as Dr. Ambedkar through his wisdom and knowledge created a special place in Indian History. Now in the Central Library Hall on one side is the bust of the first Prime Minister and on the other side of Dr. Ambedkar, and it will be motivating to students. He said that library is the most used and most sought after place. It is nice to see reading halls full of students. Prof.



## Campus Activities

Kumar thanked Mr. Kamble for his support in installation of Dr. Ambedka's bust in the Central Library and also his support in other academic activities at JNU. The Vice Chancellor while addressing the gathering referred to Ambedkar as the "greatest architect of modern India". "In the beginning of 2016 when I first joined the university, there was a 'dharna' going on in the Administrative Block but when I visited the library... I found it jam-packed. That's real JNU," he remarked while addressing officials and students on the occasion. He further added that after India got its independence the biggest question was how to achieve modernity and that our Constitution was the most important text which helped us in our struggle to reach that objective. He stated that "Constitution is our only scripture... [and] B.R. Ambedkar is the main architect of this scripture". The Vice-Chancellor said, "It was my suggestion to rename the library after Ambedkar." He further suggested that JNU may look towards applied sciences and start a School of Engineering, and another on Management and Entrepreneurship. He thanked the guest of honour and founding chairman of DICCI, Shri Milind Kamble, for his assistance.

Dr. Pramod Kumar, Registrar, JNU paid homage to Babasaheb Ambedkar and talked about the relevance of his thoughts in education and learning.

Padmashri Milind Kamle, founder Chairman of Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries remembered Dr B R Ambedkar and pledged to take forward the legacy of Babasaheb. He briefed the aims and objectives of DICCI in creating job opportunities for Dalit Students. He expressed his happiness in renaming the JNU Central Library in the name of Dr. B R Ambedkar.

The programme concluded with sincere thanks to all present.

**Ramesh C Gaur, Librarian  
Dr. B. R. Ambedker Central Library**

### First Annual Basket Ball Championship

JNU sports office basketball club organized first Annual basketball championship (day and night) at basketball court of sports complex, stadium on 23 – 24 March, 2017. Following are

the results of program:

#### 1. Men (full court-5 on 5):

Winners:

- i) Shubham kujur (SL)
- ii) Rakesh(SSS)
- iii) Pratap(SL)
- iv) Yogesh(SL)
- v) Ryu Juhun(SL)
- vi) Francis(SL)

Runners Up:

- I) Manish choudhari(SSS)
- ii) Kulwinder(SSS)
- iii) Saksham kakkar (SL)
- iv) Gopal(SL)
- v) Vikas (SL)
- vi) Prithvi raj(SL)

#### 2. Men (half court-3 on 3):

Winner:

- I) Manish choudhari(SSS)
- ii) Kulwinder(SSS)
- iii) Saksham kakkar (SL)
- iv) Gopal(SL)

Runners Up:

- i) Shubham Kujur (SL)
- ii) Rakesh(SSS)
- iii) Pratap(SL)
- iv) Ryu Juhun(SL)



#### 3. Women (3 a side)

Winners: Vajjayanthi Kadiravan, Mansi Dhata, Melissa Reneaux  
Runners up: Rachel, Manisha, Anmol  
Around 50 players including 6 girls participated in the tournament. A group of well qualified team of officials lead by Vikram Singh Sir, ADPE sports office conducted the matches in a very professional manner. We enjoyed the bonus services like music, timings, equipment, fixtures draw and format of the matches as suggested by Vikram Sir that was appreciated by one and all. Some of the talented players were identified for further nurturing to represent JNU in extramural competitions in future.

**Manish Choudhari  
Convener, JNU B'Ball Club**

## Seminars/Conferences

### The XXV Krishna Bharadwaj Memorial Lecture

This memorial lecture series was inaugurated in 1993, in loving memory of the founding Chairperson of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP), Professor Krishna Bharadwaj. Professor Bharadwaj was an eminent economist, great teacher and, above all, a warm and caring person. She was the recipient of many distinctions, including the V.K.R.V. Rao Prize (1979) and the UGC National Professor (1979).

The 25th Krishna Bharadwaj Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Heinz D. Kurz on 3 March, 2017 in the Convention Centre of JNU. The lecture was hosted by Prof. C.P. Chandrasekhar, Dean of the School of Social Sciences and coordinated by Prof. Sugato Dasgupta, Chairperson of CESP. Prof. Kurz is a renowned economist and a prominent public intellectual. At present, he is the director of the Graz Schumpeter Centre and a professor of economics at the University of Graz, Austria.

# Seminars/Conferences

On the day of the lecture, two annual prizes – the Avani Bhat Memorial Prize and the Ranjan Roy Memorial Prize – and three EXIM Bank–JNU scholarships are given to M.A. students of the Centre. The Avani Bhat Memorial Prize is awarded for best performance among the candidates who complete the first year of the M.A. (Economics) programme. The Ranjan Roy Memorial Prize is awarded for best performance among the candidates who complete the M.A. (Economics) programme. Based on performance in the first year of the MA (Economics) programme, the EXIM Bank-JNU scholarships are awarded to three students in the second year of study. This year the Avani. Bhat Memorial Prize went to Mr. T.V. Ninan, the Ranjan Roy Memorial Prize to Ms. Leila Gautam, and the EXIM-JNU scholarships to Ms. Ananya Diwakant, Ms. Anuvinda P. and Mr. T.V. Ninan.



The topic of this year's lecture was "Power – the Bête Noire of Much of Economics". Prof. Kurz argued that in contemporary economics, which is based on methodological individualism, power is mostly left unstudied. For example, the concept of perfect competition presupposes a state of affairs in which no agent is capable of manipulating prices. Prof. Kurz argued that power is difficult to see. Its low visibility is mistaken as meaning that it is unimportant or even absent.

In contrast to contemporary economics, almost all economic discourse in the past centred on power. Most of Prof. Kurz's lecture discussed the different definitions of power that economists had proposed, and the sources of power that had been identified. More specifically, he outlined ideas about power advocated by, among others, Adam Smith, Bertrand Russell, David Ricardo, Eugen von Bohm-Bawerk, Friedrich von Weiser, Herbert Simon, J.A. Schumpeter, Karl Marx, Kurt Rothschild, Max Weber, Robert Dahl and Thomas Hobbes.

Prof. Kurz quoted Bertrand Russell's argument that "power, not wealth, should be the basic concept in social theory" as love of power outweighs other motives of human action. But, he argued that though power is what prevents almost everything from happening in a just and fair way, power by itself is not necessarily a bad thing; it can be put to good purpose as well. He agreed with Russell's argument that social justice demands equalization of power to the greatest degree possible.

Prof. Kurz argued that power relationships between social classes and between nations assume centre stage in Adam

Smith's seminal book, *The Wealth of Nations*. According to Smith, power is rooted in asymmetries based on wealth, education, knowledge, information, race and sex. The working of the system was responsible for the reproduction of some of these power structures. Smith also believed that peace and an agreeable social affair could not be attained by an absolutist state but only by a well governed society which does not unduly limit the freedom of action of agents.

Prof. Kurz argued that private ownership of the means of production (e.g. capital, land and natural resources) and their unequal distribution are the main sources of power in capitalism. Land monopoly or the private property of land, Prof. Kurz maintained, was the major source of all the misery of the working classes in the past. Inner powers – the general consciousness, the state of mind, the general level of education – are also very important in determining the relationship between social elites and the masses. In fact, they constitute the core of the phenomenon of power. They allow a person to capture the minds of many others and he/she becomes capable of using resources beyond his/her own possession.

Prof. Kurz concluded the lecture by making two points. First, he extended a recent remark made by Kenneth Arrow on General Equilibrium Theory. He argued that "if resources can successfully be employed to change other people's preferences and views, then a fundamental assumption of welfare economics does not hold any longer." Second, he expressed his concern over increasing concentration of economic power. He maintained that this may lead democracy to be in danger of becoming an empty shell.

**Chandan Kumar Sharma, M.Phil. Student  
Center for Economic Studies and Planning, SSS**

## 1<sup>st</sup> CIPOD Young Scholars Conference on Emerging Themes in World Politics

The Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament organised a two day stimulating Young Scholars conference on 16-17 March, 2017. Presciently the programme titled "Emerging Themes in World Politics" set the groundwork for the conference at a substantive level. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Jagadesh Kumar was the chief guest at the inaugural session and praised the efforts of the students in organizing such an event to provide a platform for both paper presenters and students to engage in meaningful conversations.

The metamorphosis of the global political arena at an unprecedented pace provides a challenge for those who study politics. The conference provided a platform to young research scholars of the Centre to deliberate on International Relations as a discipline; utilising protean lenses to read the world: making it intelligible by defining, categorising, lending meaning and



# Seminars/Conferences

relating. There was an emphasis on the need for legitimising /engaging with a greater variety of approaches/insights to world politics to address the dilemmas emanating around us. The presentations sought to broaden our knowledge of the 'International' through a fundamental reorientation of thought: a shift away from a procrustean world view imposed by a few dominant paradigms towards a model of thought that enables productive flows across a variety of discordant faculties. The conference was aimed at taking an assessment of our understanding of emerging trends in world politics, their different manifestations as well as implications. The presentations were structured around five sessions through two days that explored issues including: politics of norms, changing identities in world politics; emerging approaches to understand war and peace; role of state and non-state actors in addressing traditional and non- traditional threats; globalisation and political economy – stakeholders, problems and opportunities; war and technology – emerging actors, claims, responsibilities in security studies; nuclear regimes and non proliferation architecture; issues of geopolitics and geoeconomics; the manifestations and effects of climate change and the legacy of colonialism and the post-colonial experience. There was an innovative roundtable on the second day with participants deliberating on Practices and Strategies of Learning in Global South: Issues of Access, Equity and Diversity in International Relations. The discussants delved into the concerns of gender and learning in IR, challenges of research for vernacular medium students and addressed mental health concerns in research. The valedictory session was chaired by the Rector Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra who applauded the efforts and contribution of the Centre and congratulated the students on organizing such an event. Dr. E. Sridharan concluded the conference with his talk on the topic 'Where Does India Stand in World Power Hierarchy? Prospects for Moving up the Ladder'. The conference was highly successful and laid the groundwork for many new and interesting developments in the coming year.

**CSR Murthy, Chairperson  
Center for International Politics, Organisation and  
Disarmament, SIS**

## A national seminar on Trajectories of Regional Media

Kannada Language Chair, CIL/SLL&CS, Centre for Media studies, SSS and Karnataka Madhyama, Academy Bangalore jointly organised a day long National Seminar on 'Trajectories of Regional Media' on 17 March, 2017. Journalists from various sections of the regional media participated and immensely contributed to the subject.

Dr. A Suryapraksh, Chairman, Prasar Bharati inaugurated the seminar and gave an impressive statistics about the growth of regional media in India and expressed his satisfaction on the growth of regional language media over English. Dr. Rakesh

Batabyal, Centre for Media Studies delivered a key note address and raised some important issue of the relations between media and local language in its historical contexts with contemporary perspective. Mr. Siddaraju, President of the Karnataka Media Academy thanked JNU for arranging this seminar on this most relevant subject. Prof. Gobind Prasad, Chairman, CIL appreciated the efforts of Kannada Language Chair for bringing core issues to forefront. Prof. Purushottama Bilimale of the Kannada Language Chair welcomed the delegates and guests.



Mr. Om Thanvi of Janasatta, Mr. Jomy Thomas of the Week, Prof. TS Satyanath of the Delhi University, Prof. Mridula Mukherjee, of CHS, JNU, Mr. Ramesh Aroli of the Kamala Nehru College, Mr. Venkatesh Kesari of the Asian age and Mr. C Sanjay Mohan of the Indian Express presented papers on various issues pertaining to regional media. Dinesh Amin Mattu, Media advisor to the Chief Minister of Karnataka delivered concluding remarks and expressed his concerns on the control of media by market forces. Dr. Mohindar Singh, Director, Bhai Beer Singh Sahitya Sadan was the chief guest for the concluding session. Many leading journalists including Mr. Umopathy of Prajavani, Mr. Prashanth Nathu of Suvarna News, Mr. Chandra Mohan of TV9, Mr. Subhas Hugar of Vijaya Karnataka, Mr. Dharaneesh Bookanakere of ETV news, Mr. K Raghava Sharma of Vijayavani, Mr. Harish GR of Suddi NewsTV, Mr. Siddayya Hiremata of Deccan herald group, Mr. Santhosha HH of Janashri News, Mr. Shabbir Nidagundi of Public TV, and Mr. Gireesha L P, of Karnataka Information Centre actively participated in the discussions. Students from Centre for Media Studies benefited the most from the presentations.

It was an important seminar because Indian languages define the essence of the Indian state and mark the character of the Indian media. Mass media is not only a tool of communication; but also representative of local culture, ethos and beliefs. A similar role is played by 'language' which in itself is a cultural parameter. Hence, there is bound to be a deep relationship between the way the Indian media works and the resulting effects it has on the development of Indian languages. This relationship between the media and regional languages was the focus of examination of the seminar.

**Purushothama Bilimale  
Kannada Language Chair  
School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies**

## जेएनयू में ब्रह्मसिद्धि पर राष्ट्रीय कार्यशाला का आयोजन

भारतीय दार्शनिक अनुसंधान परिषद् के सहयोग से जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र द्वारा आयोजित 'मण्डन मिश्र एवं उनकी ब्रह्मसिद्धि' विषयक कार्यशाला का शुभारम्भ विश्वविद्यालय के सामाजिक विज्ञान संकाय के सभागार में किया गया। इस सप्तदिवसीय कार्यशाला में चेन्नई से प्रा० मणि द्रविड, सम्पूर्णानन्द विश्वविद्यालय, वाराणसी से प्रा० राम किशोर त्रिपाठी, बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय से डा० धनंजय पांडेय लाल बहादुर शास्त्री संस्कृति विद्यापीठ से प्रा० महानन्दा झा एवं डा० सतीश के. एस. ने ब्रह्मसिद्धि का पाठ विश्लेषण किया एवं देश के विभिन्न विश्वविद्यालयों के शताधिक प्रतिभागियों को भागीदारी-प्रमाणपत्र दिया गया। प्रा० देवशंकर नवीन ने कार्यशाला के विमर्श पर एक संकलन निकालने की प्रस्तावना की। आरम्भ में ही कार्यशाला के समन्वायक प्रा० देवशंकर नवीन ने प्रसन्नता व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि "हर युग के चिन्तकों के विचार किस कारण समकालीन, और किस कारण शाश्वत होते हैं, यह उसकी चिन्तन पद्धति से तय होता है, विषय मात्र से नहीं। ब्रह्मसिद्धि के हिन्दी अनुवाद एवं गहन विचार से स्पष्टतः मण्डन मिश्र के कृतिकर्म के नए तथ्य उजागर होंगे और शायद इसकी आधुनिक व्याख्या शुरू होगी। इस अवसर पर काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय के प्रा० धनंजय पाण्डेय, लाल बहादुर शास्त्री विद्यापीठ के प्रा० महानन्द झा और डा० सतीश के. एस. तथा जेएनयू संस्कृतकेन्द्र के प्रा० राम नाथ झा ने अपनी बात रखी। केन्द्र के अध्यक्ष एवं विख्यात कवि प्रा० गोविन्द प्रसाद ने कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता की। अतिथियों का स्वागत केन्द्र के ही प्रा० देवेन्द्र चौबे एवं धन्यवाद ज्ञापन डा. गंगा सहाय मीणा ने किया।

स्वागत भाषण में प्रा० देवेन्द्र चौबे ने कहा कि "पहली बार भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र में ऐसा कार्यक्रम आयोजित हो रहा है जिसमें भारतीय ज्ञान परम्परा के एक पक्ष पर हम खुल कर बात कर सकेंगे।" प्रा० महानन्द झा ने कहा कि "यह कार्यशाला सात दिनों का एक ज्ञानयज्ञ है, जिसमें सभी अपनी-अपनी पात्रता के अनुसार फल प्राप्त करेंगे।" प्रा० धनंजय पांडेय ने कहा कि "कोई भी विषय तभी आधुनिक सन्दर्भों में ग्राह्य होगा जब वह अधिक से अधिक लोगों तक अपनी पहुँच रखता हो। जानकारी के लिए उदारता की नहीं बल्कि सन्देह और तर्क की जरूरत पड़ती है। यह मण्डन मिश्र की प्रतिभा है कि उन्होंने ब्रह्मसिद्धि में अपनी बात के साथ-साथ विरोधी विचारों को भी जगह दिया है।" अपने अध्यक्षीय वक्तोव्य में प्रा० गोविन्द प्रसाद ने कहा कि "बहुत सारे विषय काल विशेष से बंधे नहीं होते। उन पर सभी युगों में चर्चा की जा सकती है। ब्रह्मसिद्धि ऐसे ही शाश्वत विषय का ग्रन्थ है।" डा. गंगा सहाय मीणा ने कहा कि "ब्रह्मसिद्धि जैसा प्राचीन ग्रन्थ आज भी प्रासंगिक है क्योंकि ज्ञान के प्रकाश को अगली पीढ़ी तक बढ़ाने के

लिए ज्ञान की अनेक परम्पराओं को जानना जरूरी है।"

भोजनोपरान्त दूसरे सत्र में प्रा० रामनाथ झा ने कहा कि "ब्रह्मसिद्धि अलौकिक ज्ञान की पुस्तक हैं। इसलिए यह जरूरी नहीं है कि साधारण लोग भी इसमें बहुत रुचि लेते हों। किसी पुस्तक का महत्त्व यही है कि उसमें बताया गया धर्म आम जन तक फैले। मण्डन मिश्र को भारत की अनेक ज्ञान परम्पराओं—न्याय, मीमांसा, वेदान्त, व्याकरण एवं शाक्त सिद्धान्तों के समन्वयक के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए। इन ज्ञान परम्पराओं को समझना भारत को समझने जैसा है।" अन्त में प्रा० सतीश के. एस. ने वेदान्त की परम्पराओं की जानकारी दी और श्रोताओं की अनेक जिज्ञासाओं का भी समाधान किया। विदित हो कि यह कार्यशाला 18-24 मार्च तक सामाजिक विज्ञान संकाय के समिति कक्ष में आयोजित हुई। मण्डन मिश्र और उनकी ब्रह्मसिद्धि विषयक इस कार्यशाला के दूसरे, तीसरे और चौथे दिनों में चेन्नई से आए प्रा० मणि द्रविड और लालबहादुर शास्त्री विद्यापीठ, नई दिल्ली के डा० सतीश के. एस. ने ब्रह्मकाण्ड एवं तर्ककाण्ड के विषयों पर गहन चर्चा की। कार्यशाला के पाँचवें एवं छठे दिन सम्पूर्णानन्द संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय, वाराणसी के प्रा० रामकिशोर त्रिपाठी और लालबहादुर शास्त्री विद्यापीठ, नई दिल्ली के प्रा० महानन्द झा ने ब्रह्मसिद्धि के नियोगकाण्ड के विषयों पर चर्चा की। प्रा० त्रिपाठी ने कहा कि "वेदान्त संसार की अतात्त्विकता का बोध कराकर मुक्ति की ओर प्रेरित करता है। मानस संसार की निवृत्ति ही मोक्ष है।" आठवीं शताब्दी में मण्डन मिश्र के द्वारा लिखी गई ब्रह्मसिद्धि पर पहली बार देश के किसी विश्वविद्यालय में सात दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय कार्यशाला में गहन विमर्श किया गया। वेदान्तर एवं मीमांसा के प्रवर्तक मण्डन मिश्र की ब्रह्मसिद्धि भारतीय दर्शन की अप्रतिम कृतियों में से एक है जिसका स्पष्ट परिचय अब तक बौद्धिक परम्परा में नहीं हुआ है। कार्यशाला में पधारे विद्वानों ने इस पर चिन्ता प्रकट की।

भारतीय दार्शनिक अनुसंधान परिषद्, नई दिल्ली एवं भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र, जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से आयोजित 'मण्डन मिश्र रचित ब्रह्मसिद्धि' विषयक राष्ट्रीय कार्यशाला के समापन अवसर पर संस्कृत संकाय के प्रा० राम नाथ झा ने कहा कि दर्शन का मूल स्रोत भारतीय दर्शन एवं चिन्तन है। अभी भी लाखों टेक्स्ट एवं पाण्डुलिपि का अध्ययन होना बाकी है। उन्होंने मण्डन की ब्रह्मसिद्धि पर अब तक कोई काम न होने के नैराश्य पर क्षोभ व्यक्त किया और मूल स्रोत में जाकर ज्ञान-सम्पदा को खंगालने की जरूरत पर बल दिया। उन्होंने ने कहा कि भारतीय दर्शन में मिथिला के मनीषियों का अतुलनीय योगदान है।

समापन समारोह के दूसरे विद्वान प्रा० मणीन्द्र नाथ ठाकुर ने व्यवहारिक स्तर पर सामाजिक समस्याओं से दर्शन के सरोकारों पर बल दिया और लोक की आस्था से जुड़कर व्यवहार तक पहुँचाने को समीचीन बताया।

इस राष्ट्रीय कार्यशाला के समन्वायक प्रा० देवशंकर नवीन ने समापन अवसर पर ब्रह्मसिद्धि के अनुवाद पर जोर दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि सृजन के तेरह सौ वर्ष बाद भी हमलोग आज इस बात से अनभिज्ञ हैं कि मीमांसक मण्डन मिश्र ने अपनी कृति ब्रह्मसिद्धि में क्या कहा, उसका मूल तत्त्व क्या है। उन्होंने ब्रह्मसिद्धि के पाठ को आम जन तक पहुँचाने का संकल्प लिया। इन सात दिनों में हुए विमर्श का मूल लिप्यन्तरण शीघ्र ही पुस्तकाकार आएगी जो महामनीषी मण्डन मिश्र को समझने के लिए पाथेय होगा।

देवशंकर नवीन, प्रोफेसर  
भारतीय भाषा केन्द्र





# Seminars/Conferences

## National Seminar on Some Aspects of Ancient Tamil Culture

CIL Tamil stream conducted two days 17 – 18 March, 2017 national seminar on Some Aspects of Ancient Tamil Culture

Tamil language has literature, grammar and cultural tradition for more than two thousand years and in this seminar we consider only classical period. The aim of this seminar is to explain the culture of classical period in different way.

3 Special lectures and 16 paper presentation are given by professors and research scholars from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi on the basics of Anthropological approach, Archaeological approach, Translation studies, Classical approach. There were more than 100 participants attended the seminar.

**Aravendan Vendan**  
**Kannada Language Chair, CIL/SLL&CS**

## Two Day Workshop on high-end instruments

The aim of this two day workshop was to give training to students on existing instruments like multichannel electrochemical analyzer, spectrum analyzer, RF-DC sputtering system and impedance analyzer to learn the operation, software handling etc. for high quality research. Engineers from different companies and scientists were delivered the valuable lectures on these techniques. Mr. Mangesh Nandedkar from AMETEK delivered a talk on multichannel electrochemical analyzer. He demonstrated the different techniques including cyclic voltammetric, differential pulse voltammetric and impedance spectrophotometric techniques. He also gave information about the faraday cage and other accessories for further improvement in the results. Mr. Vivek Kumar Dwivedi, Rohde & Schwarz India Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi delivered a talk and hands on training on Spectrum Analysis and Frequency Domain measurement technique. He demonstrated wide Bandwidth Vector Measurements with Spectrum Analyzer as spectrum analyzer is the most common instrument for frequency domain measurements. Mr. Ashutosh Dwivedi from Keysight delivered a talk on Impedance Analyzer. He discussed the basics, working and applications of Impedance Analyzer in his talk. Mr. Atul Nagras from Advanced Process Technologies explained the processes and parameters in the operation of RF-DC magnetron sputtering. He also explained the necessary aspects of plasma physics and vacuum technology.

**Bijoy Kumar Kuanr, Chairperson**  
**Special Centre for Nano Sciences**

## National Seminar on Modernity, Nation and Democracy in Contemporary India: Ambedkar's Vision

Dr. Ambedkar Chair at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems,

School of Social Sciences organised a two-day National Seminar on 'Modernity, Nation and Democracy in Contemporary India: Ambedkar's Vision' on 19 – 30 March, 2017. The inaugural address of the seminar was delivered by Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Rector, JNU and chaired by Prof. Nilika Mehrotra, chairperson CSSS. The key-note lecture was delivered by Prof. Anand Kumar, former professor, CSSS/SSS and currently Fellow, IAS, Shimla, and the valedictory address by Prof. Kameshwar Choudhary, Senior Professor, Department of Sociology, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Central University, Lucknow.

The seminar began with an introduction of Dr. Ambedkar Chair as well as of the theme of the Seminar by Prof. Vivek Kumar, In-charge, Dr. Ambedkar Chair. In his inaugural address, Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra said that when India was a child as a nation, Dr. Ambedkar played a remarkable role in constitution-making and nation-building. Dr. Ambedkar was a thinker with great ideas as well as an activist who believed in secularism and man-woman equality. Prof. Mahapatra said that India, the largest democracy in the world was also the most unequal society in the world. And Ambedkar showed the way to fight for equality through legal and constitutional means. Although he did not write about the epistemological aspects of education, Ambedkar firmly believed that unless people were educated equality could not be achieved. Prof. Mahapatra said that he was happy that Ambedkar's ideas were returning as a powerful force in 21st century.

Besides the inaugural and the valedictory sessions, the seminar had six technical sessions. Papers were presented by faculty from all the five universities in Delhi- JNU, DU, Jamia Milia Islamia, IGNOU and Ambedkar University- as well as from various universities in other parts of the country such as TISS, Mumbai, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, Central University of Punjab, Bhatinda, Allahabad University, BBAU, Lucknow and KISS & KIIT University, Bhubaneswar. More than two hundred scholars, faculty and students from various universities and institutes in Delhi and other parts of the country participated in the deliberations and discussions on various dimensions of Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts and philosophy on modernity, democracy and nation-building, and its relevance for contemporary challenges faced by Indian society.

**P. D. Singh, Research Officer**  
**Dr. Ambedkar Chair**  
**Centre for the Study of Social Systems, SSS**

## International Biological Engineering Meeting

India's first International Biological Engineering Meeting (iBEM) was held at JNU, 26-28 March, 2017. Over 30 speakers from

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USA, Singapore and India and over 200 participants across the country took part in the conference.

The President of the event, Prof. S. C. Garkoti (Rector II, JNU) declared open the iBEM and inspired young generation to work across the traditional boundaries of science to deliver socially useful innovations. Dr. Rupesh Chaturvedi, Director, Research & Development, highlighted the emergence of engineering approach in biology leading to standards, composition rules and practical applications. The Chief Guest of the event, Prof. SS Chandrasegaran (Johns Hopkins University) emphasized the role of synthesis in redesigning biological systems. His path breaking work on rewriting genomic software of the yeast led to a great excitement and was clearly the talk of the town.



The iBEM 2017 saw 30 eminent scientists from India, USA and Singapore representing disciplines from computation to biology and engineering, discussing their latest work in designing and editing genes, chromosomes, vesicles and cells towards various practical endpoints. The event saw hands on demonstration of 3D printing technology. Health applications of 3D printing technology, e.g. providing human organs on demand, were discussed. The event saw two panel discussions, one discussing entrepreneurship, policy and Intellectual property discussions. The other discussed possibility of launching a new annual iBEC (Indian Biological Engineering Competition) event in India, on the lines of iGEM event at MIT.

The iBEM 1.0 saw strong participation and support from the industries: Thermo fisher, Novozymes, Evolva Biotech, Shantha Biotech-Sanofi, Aura Biotechnologies, Bio Nivid, SVI Analytica, K&S Partners, Natreon Inc, Travelothon, Biotechmil and Oyster International.

Dr. Sangita M. Kasture, Joint Director, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India outlined DBT's vision for synthetic biology research, various

upcoming initiatives and continued support for selecting and financing teams for iGEM event at MIT, Boston.

The organizers of the event, Prof. Pawan K. Dhar (School of Biotechnology) and Prof. Shailja Singh (Special Centre for Molecular Medicine) expressed their warmest thanks and gratitude to JNU administration for offering a robust JNU platform, to disseminate a new kind of science for the first time in the country. Dr. V. Ravichandiran (Director NIPER Kolkata) Co-organizer of iBEM 1.0 expressed his warmest thanks to all the speakers and JNU Administration for their strong support.

In addition to top quality scientific content and building of new student centric networks, the iBEM demonstrated alignment with the Govt's Make in India initiative and the possibility of launching a new series of events in future.

The conference ended with the best poster presentations, vote of thanks and an announcement that the iBEM 2.0 will be held at KIIT, Bhubneshwar by Prof. Mrutyunjay Suar CEO, KIIT Technology Business Incubator and Director, KIIT School of Biotechnology in February, 2018.

**Pawan Kumar Dhar, Professor  
School of Biotechnology**

## Invited Talks: on Surface Plasmon Resonance based fiber optic chemical and biosensors

Invited Talks: Delivered by Prof. Banshi Dhar Gupta, IIT Delhi on "Surface Plasmon Resonance based fiber optic chemical and biosensors" on 29 March, 2017. Prof. B.D. Gupta delivered a talk on basic concept of SPR sensors and biosensors based on fibre optics. He was discussed on various types of nanomaterials based biosensors, fabricated on fibre optics for the detection of urea, glucose, LDL, Vitamin K, heparin and pesticide using SPR techniques. He also discussed about the molecular printing based biosensor.

**Bijoy Kumar Kuanr, Chairperson  
Special Centre for Nano Sciences**

## Report on the International Seminar "Mortality Analysis and Forecasting"

The International Seminar on Mortality Analysis and Forecasting, 6-8 April, 2017 organized by Nandita Saikia and Vladimir Canudas-Romo, on behalf of the IUSSP panel on lifespan extension with varying cause of death trajectories, was held from the 6-8 April, 2017, in the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India. This event was further collaborated by CSRD, JNU, Max-Planck Odense Center on the Biodemography of Aging, Denmark and Australian National University. The meeting was sponsored by the generous support of the Danish Agency for

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Science, Technology and Innovation, Denmark, IUSSP, and our hosts JNU with minimum cost most of the facilities. Also international attendants from Africa, Australia and Europe contributed with their own travel funds. A total of 35 presenters and approximately 15 extra researchers participated. Among the participants were demographers, but other population scientists were also present: statisticians, economists and public health specialists. Five to ten senior researchers (full and associate professors), another similar group of junior faculty (postdocs and assistant professors), and the rest of attendants were PhD or master students from CSR, JNU.



The seminar focused on themes related to mortality and causes of death studies in India and the region, and forecasting methodologies in international settings, as well as methodologies for countries with limited data. The goal of the seminar was not to answer a single question, but to try to bring together researchers from developing and developed countries with interest on mortality. More specifically, the aims and objectives of the seminar were: i) To present studies on the past and present of mortality and causes of death in India and the region, ii) to highlight new methodologies on mortality forecasting, and iii) to discuss possible forecasting methodologies to be used for countries with deficient data.

Among the serious concerns discussed was the availability of reliable data on deaths and population. For example, official statistics of India does not publish yearly death counts by age and sex, but produces already modeled life tables. This discussion was further highlighted when colleagues from the "Million deaths study" presented their data, but did not have a date for the possible public dissemination of the information to researchers. Researchers have had to use alternative data sources to do their demographic work, and very inventive sources of information were highlighted during the seminar. Although not discussed a new source of data has started in India which could change completely the paradigm of data information in the country, namely the scanning of 1.2 billion people in the Aadhaar project. It would be vital for the future work of

demographers in the country that this information is made also available to researchers. The third day of the seminar was devoted to give hands on training in R on mortality analysis to PhD students of the seminar and JNU.

**Nandita Saikia, Assistant Professor  
Center for the Study of Regional Development, SSS**

## Report of an International Conference on Changing World Order: India and China in Contemporary Times

Dr. Geeta Kochhar Jaiswal under the auspices of Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies and in collaboration with Prof. Keshav Mishra from Banaras Hindu University and Dr. Bawa Singh from Central University of Punjab organized an International Conference on Changing World Order: India and China in Contemporary Times on 14 – 15 April, 2017. As the world is looking at the East, the aim of the Conference was to reassess the current realities and hindrance in creating an 'Asian century', especially with the most powerful economies in the region - India and China. In the two day Conference, more than 50 presentations were made by scholars from across the globe. It broadly covered the following sub themes: Major Powers and India - China Relations; Territorial Issues and Security Challenges; Economic and Trade Linkages; India - China: Cooperation, Competition and Rivalry; Regional and Sub - regional Dynamics; China's OBOR and India; Multilateral and Regional Order; Changing Dynamics of the Region; World Visions and Cultural Factors.



Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty, Vice - President of Council for Social Development and an Eminent China Scholar, in his speech stressed on looking at the "Tagore perspective" for India - China relations and emphasized to have the prism of 'civilizational societies' perspective; rather than just the geopolitical perspective. Similar sentiments were expressed by JNU Vice Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar; while stressing that terrorism poses the greatest challenge to both societies and the world.



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H.E. Ashok Kantha, Former Indian Ambassador to China and newly appointed Director of Institute of Chinese Studies, in his special address highlighted on the two parallel trends: one is on the uncertainties and the hiccups that follow the rise of India and China dialogue; the second was the rise of protectionism in the west. He remarked that against this background, there was a need for India and China to cooperate in this complex period and to realise the real meaning of 'Closer Developmental Partnership' announced way back in 2014. In his Special Address, H.E. Liu Jinsong, Deputy Chief of Mission of Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India, talked about the historical scholarly exchange that are shared between India and China such as the visit of Xuan Zang to India and his contribution to the academic exchange between India and China; while expressing deep concern about the Indian acceptance of Dalai Lama's government in-exile. In other major presentation and discussions, everyone agreed in principle that China was a rising power to play a bigger role in international relations, but it is for both India and China to shoulder responsibility to decide on the 'new regional architecture'. Prof. S. D Muni in his valedictory remarks made a strong case to ascertain the real reasons behind the 1962 war, especially from the Chinese side in order to build future cooperative relationship. He emphasised on the need that both India and China must do introspection and ascertain their respective desires from each side, so as to dispel mistrust and enhance cooperation. The Conference concluded on a note that India and China are the two major pillars of any future redesigning and shaping of world order, and in specific for the regional order. It is therefore imperative for both the powers to join hands and work in tandem.

**Geeta Kochhar Jaiswal, Assistant Professor  
Center for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, SLL&CS**

### Seminar on Women Entrepreneurs and Innovators

A Seminar on Women Entrepreneurs and Innovators was held on 19 April, 2017, in the Committee Room of the JNU Convention Center. It was organised by the Alumni Affairs Office.

Prof. K.P. Vijayalakshmi welcomed the participants and introduced the panelists. In her remarks, she highlighted the role of entrepreneurship in fostering the development of the economy. The Government of India's recognition of the equal role of women in entrepreneurship was highlighted as a gain for the whole country.

Prof. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice-Chancellor JNU, in his remarks highlighted the role of women in society and emphasised upon the need to break the glass ceiling of 'male-oriented-jobs' and enter the sphere of power, aviation, nuclear and other sectors.

Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Rector-1 remarked that in entrepreneurial and other activities, 'success is never final and failure is never fatal'. He called for the need to harness women's power, which would realize India's goal of becoming a superpower.

The first speaker was Ms. Jayalakshmi Chittor (Parameswaram), Senior Consultant, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. She detailed the need to be well-versed with the 'internet of things' as this was the future of technology. The need to learn large data analysis was important for every academic discipline as each person belongs to the global world. She motivated the audience to think towards becoming a creator of jobs.

The second speaker was Ms. Neda Mirasmadi, Co-founder of Nirakara International Export House. She detailed her life as being "Iranian by birth and Indian by heart". She shared her



experiences in JNU and after receiving her PhD, she charted the course of her career in business and entered the domain of pharma and medical industry. She conceived the idea of providing services in the field of biotechnology. She exhorted the audience to make a realistic analysis of the objectives of the business and move towards arriving at practical solutions to them.

The third speaker was Ms. Anupama Singh, the Founder and Director of Sequoia Insilico Co., which deals with relegating the sphere of bio-informatics in her business. She encouraged the audience to move out of comfort zones and be ready for investment rejections in most of the places, and yet not lose confidence. The most important need was to be open to discussion and constructive criticism.

The fourth speaker was Ms. Tanuja Pandey, Chief Consultant, Tourism and Marketing Services. She provided instances of her successful career, where she was open to re-evaluating her choices, even after she got through the prestigious UPSC examination. She urged the audience to be at peace with the choice they make for their career, and have faith in oneself. This

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was the basic pre-requisite for anyone to be successful entrepreneur despite several challenges. After the presentation, there was a question and answer session.

To a question asked on the ways to overcome the barriers and challenges in pursuing business ideas, Ms. Tanuja Pandey responded that there was a need to make a concept proposal for the next three years. Approaching family and friends for prospective investments was a good idea to begin with.

Ms. Anupama Singh replied that she imagined herself as a 'traffic signal'; as she pursued her family and career together, where it was important to be aware of how much burden (traffic) one

would allow to pass through and when to restrict others for a certain period of time. Ms. Jayalakshmi Chittor called for the constant need for improvement and updating of the faculty capacity and curriculum. In essence, each of the panelists urged for the need to believe in oneself to realise her entrepreneurial capacities.

The Vice Chancellor delivered the concluding remarks and felicitated the speakers. Prof. Andrew Lynn gave the Vote of Thanks.

**Simi Mehta,**  
**School of International Studies**

## पेन ड्राइव

### मैं और कविता - अरुण देव, कवि



मैं कविता इस लिए लिखता हूँ कि जो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ उसे ठीक तरह से (मुझे ऐसा लगता है) कविता में ही कहने की अभी मेरी योग्यता है। मैं इसे रंग या राग में व्यक्त नहीं कर सकता। हो सकता है भविष्य में मैं फिल्में बनाने लग जाऊँ तब शायद मेरे पास और विकल्प हों। पर असल चीज है जिसे राइनेर मारिया रिल्के 'बाध्यता' कहते हैं वह है कि नहीं—काप्पुस को एक जगह रिल्के ने

लिखा है। "उस कारण को खोजो जो तुम्हें लिखने के लिए बाध्य करता है। और जाँचों की इस बाध्यता ने क्या अपनी जड़ें तुम्हारे भीतर फैला ली हैं।"

यह सदी अतियों की सदी से आगे 'अतिवाद' की सदी है। अति अब एक विचारधारा है। इस अति ने उनके आभासी सत्य हमारे सामने निर्मित कर दिए हैं। यह सत्य को उत्तर-सत्य (पोस्ट-ट्रुथ) में बदल रहा है। सबसे पहले तो यह हमें निरा उपभोक्ता में बदल रहा है। सूचनाओं और छबियों का ऐसा समुद्र जिसमें विवेक और संवेदना की नाव गुम हो गयी है। हर चीज बाजार है और कहीं न कहीं पूंजी का अम्बार किसी के लिए खड़ा हो रहा है। मनुष्यता की सबसे मूल्यवान चीज है उसका संवाद, आज उसका भी कारोबार है।

मुद्रण पूरे विश्व में नेशन स्टेट के अस्तित्व से जुड़ा हुआ था और इसलिए इसका एक दायरा था। वह एक देश और उससे जुड़े लोगों से ही सम्बोधित था। डिजिटल माध्यम चूँकि कथित भूमंडलीकरण के दौर की घटना है अतः इसमें राष्ट्र-राज्य की सीमाएँ नहीं हैं। भाषा की सीमाएँ जरूर हैं पर भाषाएँ किसी एक देश में महदूद नहीं हैं। कवि के समक्ष प्रत्यक्ष का दायरा विस्तृत हुआ है और उसकी कविता पर क्रिया और प्रतिक्रिया में अति है। इसलिये उसके प्रभाव की उम्र घटी है।

ऐसे में एक कवि अपनी कविता में बिम्बों की श्रृंखला तैयार करता है। एक ही कविता में कई अंतराल हैं जैसे यह हमारे दैनिक का ही प्रकटीकरण हो। कवि को अतिशय बिम्ब चमत्कार से भी बचना है।

आज कविता इतिहास से उलझ रही है और तमाम ऐतिहासिक

निर्मितियों को अपनी संरचना में विन्यस्त कर रही है। घनानंद की प्रेयसी सुजान को हिन्दी के सबसे बड़े आलोचक और इतिहासकार आचार्य रामचंद्र शुक्ल वेश्या कहते हैं। जिस स्त्री के एडियों पर उसका प्रिय रीझा रहा उसके प्रेम के लिए कातर बना रहा उसे तीन सौ साल बाद साहित्य वेश्या कह देता है। कवि, उसकी प्रेरणा, निर्मित कविता और उसके पाठ की यह मानिखेज यात्रा है। कविता पूछती है – इक्कीसवीं शताब्दी की इस हिंदी के पास 300 साल पुराने उस प्रेम के लिए न सम्मान है न शब्द। (सुजान)

ठीक इसी तरह से जायसी के पद्मावत से होता हुआ कवि धर्म— युद्ध तक जाता है जो सीरिया से लेकर अब हर जगह फैल गया है।

युद्ध के अंत की वह राख अभी भी बची है।

जो हर धर्म—युद्ध के बाद हर जगह बची रह जाती है।

जिसे वह शायर अपनी डबडबायी करुणा में देख सका

(जायसी)

कविता से आज संकीर्ण अर्थों में किसी प्रतिबद्धता की मांग बेमानी है। इटली के कवि इयुजेनियो मोंताले ने ठीक ही कहा था "सामाजिक प्रतिबद्धता कभी भी संकीर्ण अर्थों में घटित नहीं होती है। महान रचनाओं ने किसी भी किस्म की निरंकुशता को स्वीकार नहीं किया है।" आज प्रतिबद्धता का मतलब है मनुष्यता के साथ खड़ा होना है। जो मासूम और खतरे में हैं उनके साथ होना है।

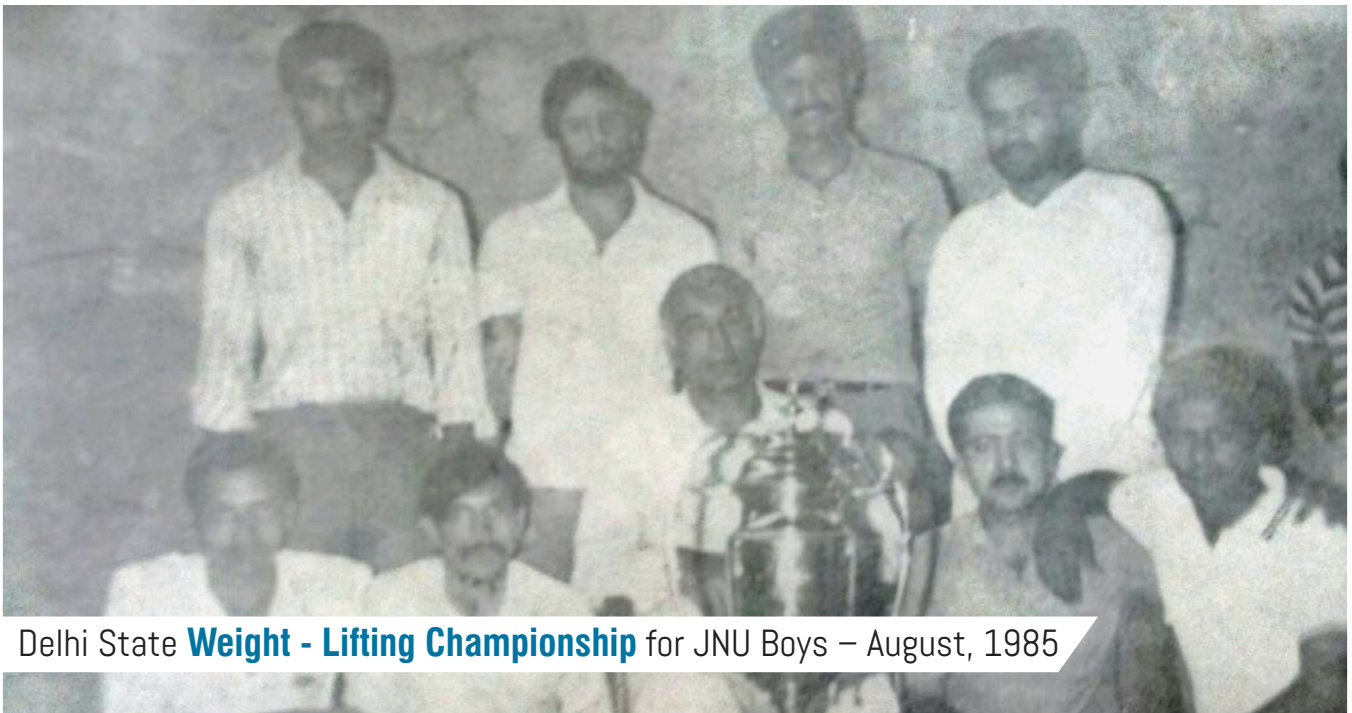
मैं समझता हूँ कवि में निर्लज्जता अच्छी बात नहीं है। अपनी कविता को हर जगह चस्पा कर देने की इच्छा से उसे बचना चाहिए। कविता धीमी गति से प्रसारित होने वाली चीज है। वह अपने अभीष्ट तक पहुँचने के लिए सबसे छोटा रास्ता चुनती है। वह हर शब्द का महत्व समझाती है। अगर कविता में आप शब्दों की फिजूलखर्ची करेंगे तब कविता भारी होकर बोझ बन जायेगी। गालिब की तरह कवि को अपने लेखन के महत्व से बेपरवाह होना चाहिए।

न सिताइश की तमन्ना, न सिले की परवाह

गर नहीं है मेरे अशआर में मानी न सही

**डा. गंगा सहाय मीणा से बातचीत पर आधारित**

Awards for JNU

The logo for JNU NEWS features the JNU emblem on the left, which consists of two interlocking loops forming a shield-like shape with 'JNU' written below it. To the right of the emblem, the word 'JNU' is written in a bold, blocky font, and 'NEWS' is written in a much larger, bold, serif font below it.

Delhi State **Weight - Lifting Championship** for JNU Boys – August, 1985



JNU Gets **Soviet Land Nehru Award** – December, 1984



# Our Publications

## Book Release “Easy Way to Russian”

On January 24, 2017, at 2:30 PM, Centre of Russian Studies, SLL&CS, in collaboration with The Central Library and Readwell Publishers who also sponsored a High-Tea, organized the book release for Easy Way to Russian authored by Ajoy Kumar Karnati, Assistant Professor, CRS, SLL&CS and Janani Vaidhyathan, a guest faculty in the same centre.



Welcoming address was by Prof. Meeta Narain, Chairperson, CRS, SLL&CS, JNU, who had been pivotal in organizing the Book Release function. Talking about the need of the hour for books in Russian, she said this book has been added to its in-house series of CRS indigenous collection.

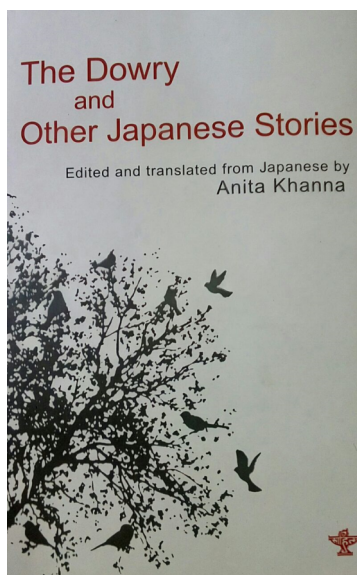
The Guest of Honour, Prof. Satish Chandra Garkoti, Rector-II, JNU, launched the book, who said through his encouraging words that an attempt to write one's first book was in itself a commendable task. He wished the authors in taking up many more similar projects in the future. The book was introduced by Prof. Charanjit

Singh, CRS, SLL&CS, JNU, who extensively appraised the content of the book. Prof. Rekha V. Rajan, Dean, SLL&CS also added her views and gave some useful inputs to the authors.

The book serves as a ready reckoner for many learning Russian initially or who wish to quickly go through the grammar rules whenever they want to refer. As a tourist and businessman one might benefit to get a quick look at words that could be used for their needs. The cost effective book can be packed in a corner of one's hand baggage with its small size and less weight. A glimpse of the Russian Language through this book to motivate one to go ahead to learn the language further to enroll for Russian in the university was the main aim behind this book. Russian as Foreign language learning in India till now pertains only to major cities or towns. The low cost of the book calls aloud to the youth in India, who can buy this book easily and can also think of a different career option by choosing Russian.

The authors Mr. Ajoy Kumar Karnati and Ms. Janani Vaidhyathan who had always had their interest in teaching Russian as a foreign language in India, also shared their experience of writing the book on this occasion. Beyond the difficult task of matter and method that was involved in writing this book, the authors narrated the unique exercise of fitting the exhaustive matter within a small size of a page-length that was set beforehand by the publisher. Mrs. Sabina Chowdhary, representing the publishers, talked about the need for books to learn foreign languages in India. Dr. Sonu Saini concluded the programme with his vote of thanks.

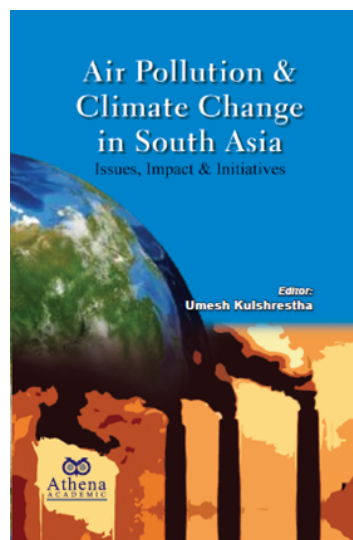
**Janani Vaidhyathan**  
**Center of Russian Studies, SLL&CS**



**“The Dowry and Other Japanese Stories”**  
*Edited and translated from Japanese by*  
**Prof. Anita Khanna,**  
*Centre for Japanese Studies, SLL&CS,*

Published by  
**Sahitya Akademi**

ISBN: 978-81-260-5178-6



**Air Pollution and Climate Change in South Asia: Issues, Impacts & Initiatives. 2016**  
*Edited by*  
**Prof. Umesh Kulshrestha**  
*School of Environmental Sciences.*

Published by **Athena**

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978-19-103-9034-4



Interview with **Ms. Jayalakshmi Chittoor**, Senior Consultant, Programme Management Women in Technology Electronics

**Shubhra: Tell us about your association with JNU and the journey that followed.**

**Ms. Jayalakshmi Chittoor:** I was a student here from 1982 onwards. I joined the School of Environmental Sciences which was at that time one of the most contemporary areas to work in. What fascinated me to come to JNU really was that this was a university that was doing multidisciplinary learning as the thrust and participatory focus of the teaching and learning. So, for me, this was fascinating coming from Delhi University where streamlined subject matter and specialisation were the order of the day. Hereon my journey has been absolutely fantastic and today in 2017, with basic degree in botany with specialization in tissue culture and environmental science with specialisation in biochemistry, I am working in the field of electronics and IT looking at how we can bring electronics and IT interventions in the domain of agriculture, improvements in the space of health and education and women's empowerment. So these are four thrust areas where I am looking at how IT can be used for development. And if you say this from a broad spectrum perspective, an ordinary person may not be able to comprehend what it is. Because I have had this multidisciplinary grounding, I believe it was not much of a difficulty for me to take on this assignment. So that's a little background of what I am.

**Shubhra: You mention development, a popular term these days. What is the conceptualisation of the word, or the idea of development that motivates you?**

**Ms. Jayalakshmi Chittoor:** So if we take development as a discourse, often time we used to have this mentality that whoever has the wherewithal and the resources to support will be the one who will be the donor and there will be beneficiaries. So the whole discourse on development was somebody is poor, in need and in distress and we need to do something for their betterment...

This discourse is called "need based development", identifying the need and trying to fulfil that with resources whether it is human, capital or knowledge. This is what the discourse was. But in the course of the last 30 years, there has been a shift in the development discourse. And that is called a shift from "basic

needs" to "basic rights". We were initially talking of some decision makers, few bureaucrats, few people who were thinking of the larger good of the public and were mulling over what development needs are for the rest of the people in closed rooms. This discourse when it changed and went to "rights" perspective, it shifted the gears onto the rights of the citizens, as enshrined in the constitution, towards my right to a dignified life. What you are doing to me is not charity- it is your duty as government, your duty as institutions that are set up to fulfil certain mandates to do so and therefore you no longer look at me as a beneficiary. You look at me as someone whose rights have to be fulfilled. The negotiating ability of the citizens shifted gears and this really changed the discourse of development. Thus, if we are talking today of development, we are talking about truly empowered citizens, who can demand their rights, are supported other legal instruments that have come in place like Right to Information, Right to Equality, Right to Justice, right to issues against discrimination, etc. Internationally, a convention called CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) is a hugely powerful instrument that can be used by organisations to negotiate equality rights for women. And so if there is a gender disparity issue, it doesn't have to be something you cow down to, be sad or worry about or even stand on the middle of the street to shout slogans in order to be heard. You have an instrument that has been ratified by many countries including India. So we have a mechanism to fight for our rights- that is shift in the gear of development- that I was referring to.

**Shubhra: Almost a shift in the discourse of what a welfare state should be...**

**Ms. Jayalakshmi Chittoor:** Absolutely.

**Shubhra: So from a charitable kind of an outlook to something that inspires from grassroots onwards. Not "top-down" but from "bottom-up"...**

**Ms. Jayalakshmi Chittoor:** Absolutely.

**Shubhra: Your shift from sciences to a multidisciplinary approach where most of your work seems to be oriented towards community building practices, is fascinating to me. A lot of your work is about community building practices...**

**Ms. Jayalakshmi Chittoor:** Interestingly, communication has

## Alumni Corner

become a centre point for ensuring equity and justice. So if you take the basic principles of the constitution and if you look at yourself as any individual working in any domain, as a citizen of any country, you should be really governed by overarching principles enshrined in the constitution. You don't require anybody to tell you what you should do and what you should not do. Social justice in the eyes of constitution is equality, justice, fairness. If I can pursue those three words, I have a lifetime of contribution to make. Whatever project I am working on, whatever area I am engaged in, in whichever organisation, how I use those three as my guiding principles and create new and innovative programs to ensure their implementation is the mission. That to me is an exciting point and provides me the trigger. And I got an understanding of political thinking only from JNU, because as a science student I wouldn't have thought about it like this. I would have focussed on solving of one little disease or one little problem but to look at the larger dimension of the people centred approach to anything, I got it from here because I was interacting with a lot of students from different fields, from a lot of informal courses that I was attending. Communication became central and I learnt early on that if I was not a good communicator, I would not be able to better my thinking and better my ideas. And obviously if I thought so for

myself, then whoever I was working for, it became natural that I was going to think of innovative solutions for them. So community discourse became the natural option.

**Shubhra: What are the challenges you have faced in the field so far? What would be your advice to youngsters wishing to follow you in your footsteps?**

**Ms. Jayalakshmi Chittoor:** The world is very unequal, naturally. We are culturally, socially structured to be unequal. We are a very patriarchal society. But we do not have to accept it as we inherit. We have to fight against institutional mechanisms, cultural practices, the ethos, etc. to fight for equality. Affirmative actions to address the structural challenges is central to the work that I do. Technology is considered to be a male domain-science and technology in general and technology in particular where people think of it as a complex science. If you have to club economics and engineering that makes technology. So people often think, "use of technology and women? Ah, they must be making some mistakes." Being in the forefront of technology and innovation, you are required to challenge systems at all times and one needs to keep in mind that you are fighting two different levels of battles- one battle of addressing the social and cultural issues and one battle being present in a man's world.

## Obituary



**Shri Azad Singh**, Senior Assistant,  
passed away on Sunday, 2 April, 2017

*We extend our condolences to the bereaved family.*

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

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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।

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## Central Library JNU, renamed as Dr. B R Ambedkar Central Library



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