



## Connecting Thinkers...



### Editors' Message



Dear Thinkers, this has been a momentous time for all of us, all around the world. Stories of victory and loss, hope and despair, strength and weakness have ruled the roost nationally and internationally. If the victories of Victor Froome and Milind Soman in the most grueling races of the world caught our eye-balls then the suicides of the farmers and the death of an iconic person Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam squeezed our hearts. If the launch of Chandrayaan and New Horizons spacecraft flying by Pluto was a victory for the scientific community then the acquisition of Switzerland-headquartered gold refinery Valcambi by jewellery firm Rajesh Exports other such examples of acquisitions by Indian industrial houses came as a forerunner of the economic story of this country. The celebration of the World Yoga Day all over the world with much fanfare somehow gave us goosebumps while recognising the potential of this country. In the other end of the world when US of A declared that Gay marriage is now a Constitutional Right in that country the whole world celebrated because this yet again marked a victory of a different kind. At the same time, the heart-wrenching stories of despair and hopelessness of the farmers who are instrumental in feeding us and of the innumerable violent attacks on humanity make you wake up to the consequences of human interventions guided by narrow, limited thinking.

I might be missing out on quite a few other stories with similar messages but all these stories are narratives of human endeavor to touch the silver lining!! But, it is important to strike the right balance between celebrations and introspections. If the stories of victory and hope fill us with renewed vigor to strive for our goals too then the stories of despair should make us think that when we have progressed and developed so much why are there still certain sections of society which are left untouched by this prosperity?

Policies profess to be inclusive but the facts and ground realities tell a different story. Under the circumstances, as researchers we have to think about how we could contribute to meet some of these challenges and alleviate the larger part of the population from its troubles. Can the guiding force for all the 'search' that we do would be for that golden mean which will fulfil the motto of *sarve janah sukhino bhavantu* apart from looking at individual growth? I would like to end the note with a few lines from a hindi poetry *Aarya* composed by the well-known hindi poet *Maithilisharan Gupta*, clearly emphasizing the need for the individual to be guided as much by the thoughts of well-being of the entire world as well as oneself and spread the light of knowledge to the whole world. Happy searching!!

संसार के उपकार हित, जब जन्म लेते थे सभी  
निश्चय हो कर किस तरह से, बैठ सकते थे कभी  
फैला यहीं से ज्ञान का, आलोक सब संसार में  
जागी यहीं थी, जग रही जो ज्योति अब संसार में ।

### Inside the Issue

Experts' Column	2
Article by Dattatreya Velankar and Vikram Rao	3
Article by Editorial team	3
Article by Dr. Rajani Jairam	4
Article by Dr. Muzzamil Ahmed S.	4
Article by Editorial team	5

## Experts' Column

### JGI Ventures

#### Why JGI Ventures ?

Swami Vivekananda's books inspired Dr. R. Chenraj and the belief in his philosophy, "Knowledge makes character" motivates him fight to educate people? This idea changed me. Education leads to jobs. People become self-sufficient. They get empowered. The whole idea was to bring out more entrepreneurs who could provide jobs and empower people. Entrepreneurship is difficult. You fall down a million times and get up once. Keep doing it. It takes 20-30 years of efforts. Entrepreneurship is efforts, risk and uncertainty. So, live in uncertainty and succeed.

#### The Need and how does JGI fill the need ?

In the world of Indian entrepreneurs, there is a yawning gap between the traditional and the modern. Young entrepreneurs depend on a mentor-mentee relationship with seniors of their community while setting up businesses. They look up to them for motivation, guidance, support and funding. The seniors are happy to provide the same because they too benefited from such help and as an obligation.

#### How is it different from Angels and venture capitalists?

This is in contrast to the venture capital model made popular by Silicon Valley where valuation, due diligence and business models are everything. The investors have definite ideas about return on investments and they never enter without an exit strategy. For their part, the entrepreneurs are happy to take help from a venture capitalist (VC) and tap into his network. But they usually don't appreciate too much intrusion. Many second-time entrepreneurs refuse to have anything to do with VCs. Hurt by the cold formality of their approach, once is one time too many for them.

#### What is our Vision and Mission ?

The vision laid down by our chairman was to create 8800 entrepreneurs by 2025, with each doing a turn over approximately 25crores, will lead us to contribute 2% of India's GDP.

#### Our Methodology:

Our research and experience said that entrepreneurs need 4 important things to run his/her business successfully apart from the hygiene factors.

1. Moral Infrastructure: Mentorship, Direction, Positive Energy etc. We built our Entrepreneurship factory with a view to create this moral infrastructure. We plan to build a 1 lakh square feet bigger working space, where all our start ups and investees will operate from in order to create the moral infrastructure.
2. Financial Infrastructure: It's not only about having the money investments but also proper advise, proper planning towards future, analytical inputs on the transactions and strategy to build a sustainable organisation.
3. Collaborative Platform: Shared services centre was created to ensure entrepreneur spends time only on his passion and core areas and non-core areas are taken care by other experts. The most important one is the platform to collaborate. This is the single largest reason of innovation. You see the problems your industry faces are most likely solved in some other industry already. For eg: education to reach every corner of India, answer is in technology. Thereby by ensuring that people from various back grounds, various expertise and from various sectors collaborate and bring out the best in their products and services.
4. Network Infrastructure: Business is all about connecting with the right decision makers , meeting the right people, getting the right people on board as employees as advisors. Attracting the seasoned talents. We enjoy a grand brand value and robust worldwide connections, this is shared amongst our companies so that they grow in geometric progression.

#### Where are we today and our next steps?

Till date we have facilitated 100 entrepreneurs, currently around 60 + entrepreneurs are running 42 companies. Together these 42 companies employ close to 1500 people.

Report by Abdul G. Sait and Mr. Hema Chandra  
Mr. Abdul G. Sait is Executive Committee member of JGI Ventures  
and Group CEO of Basket Options  
Mr. Hema Chandra is CEO of JGI Ventures

## Knowledge Talks - In the quest for Knowledge!

In an effort to cultivate a learning and knowledge sharing environment connecting interdisciplinary and cross disciplinary researchers, knowledge seekers with knowledge providers across academia and professionals in the industry, the Research Department of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Jain University has started 'Knowledge Talks', which is a monthly series of talks, lectures and discussions on various topics of interest and is open to all.

The first talk got underway on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2015 by Dr. S. P. Gurudas on "An Insight into the Performing Art of 'Hari Katha'" which was followed by a short performance and question and answer session.

*The heart rendering talk by Dr. Gurudas provided an insight into Hari Katha (or Katha-Keerthan) which is the art of musical oratory and one of the very popular means of telling stories, history and evolution of the art, while also providing his personal experiences and anecdotes.*

The second talk was held on the 27th of June 2015 by Smt. Sowmya and Sri. Sanak Kumar Athreya on "Deciphering Traditional Ways of Healing using "Nada Svasthi" (An Indian Method of Music Therapy)". The talented husband and wife team, covered the essence of an otherwise very vast subject of Music Therapy in a little over an hour to an audience of around 30 enthusiasts. They enlightened us with information on Music Therapy as a subject, which broadly is an approach to utilize specific sound patterns in a pre-decided manner to improve the physical, psychological, emotional, cognitive and social health of people.

Dattatreya Velankar and Vikram Rao  
Ph.D Scholars in Culture Studies  
jainuni.knowledgetalks@gmail.com

## Religion and Politics in India - A Panel Discussion

A unique panel discussion was jointly organized by Jain University in collaboration with University of California at Berkeley, Georgetown University and Lokniti – CSDS on 11 July 2015 at the Jayanagar campus. The discussion focused on 'Religion and Politics in India'. The idea of the Panel arose on account of a new book titled "Religious Practice and Democracy in India" by Pradeep Chhibber and Dr. Sandeep Shastri which was released recently by Cambridge University Press. Dr Pradeep Chhibber, the South Asia Chair Professor in Political Science at UCB, was the first speaker who highlighted the conclusions presented in the book. This was followed by responses by Mr. Rajdeep Sardesai, the well known television anchor and Consulting Editor of India Today TV and Dr. Irfan Nooruddin an eminent Political Scientist at Georgetown University. Dr Chenraj Roychand, President, Jain University presided over the Panel.

It was interesting to listen to various perspectives on religion and democracy in India by the panelists where each one of them had their insights on the subject. Mr. Sardesai, commended the book and highlighted the recent events in India and its implications for both religious practice and the working of democracy. He underscored the impact of 'religious exclusiveness' and its dangerous implications for democratic processes in India. The emergence of the 'we' and the 'they' syndrome, he felt, posed a serious challenge to the pluralistic nature of Indian society and dwelt at length on its wider implications for democratic politics in India.

*The panel discussion was informative and at the same time made the audience think about the relationship that exists between religion and democracy and how do these two very important aspects impact each other.*

Dr. Nooruddin began his presentation by highlighting a series of examples of the complex issues involved in the inter-play of religion, society and politics. While complimenting the authors of the book, he went on to draw attention to the differences in the way religion was practiced in the United States and Europe and dilated on the path that India was likely to tread. Given the deep sense of religiosity amongst people in India and the important role that religious practices play in society, Dr. Nooruddin, highlighted the need to negotiate the relationships between the religion and the secular space in the years ahead.

Report by Editorial team

## Research Areas in Department of Sanskrit

The Department of Sanskrit in Jain University is currently involved in different areas of Research, which are relevant to contemporary society. Most of the research which has been taken up is inter-disciplinary. Currently students are involved in research areas encompassing grammar and its current application, political thought in ancient India and a comparison of the same to the current political scenario, Indian perspectives of narratology and aeronautical , aerospace and aviation engineering in ancient India.

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the political system from Vedic Age, Epic Age, Smriti period, Dharmashstra period and the current period and linking the similarities and distinctive features of the same. Her final analysis highlights the relevance of the ancient political system to contemporary reality.

Ms. Padmaja B S is working on Indian the perspectives of Narratology. She has chosen select Upakhyanas of Mahabharata to show how “Story Telling” creates space for cultural interactions and better understandings of life. Ms. Shruti K R an engineer by training has chosen Vymanika Shastra and has compared it with aeronautical, aerospace and aviation engineering. The other areas where the Department wishes to encourage further work include linguistics and structures of public discourses.

An important research study on grammar has been completed and the candidate is in the process of publishing the work. About 1500 words from “Amarakosha” have been taken and various aspects of their literal meaning, contextual meaning and how they can be used in different sentences are being analysed as a post-doctoral work by Dr. Renukaradhyia who did his PhD from this department and received the degree in 2014.

The work on ‘Political thought’ assesses the process and systems of politics in Ancient India. Ms. Ramamani B S is working on analysing

Dr Rajani Jairam  
Research Guide in Sanskrit and Dean , Student Welfare( Jain University)

## My Research Journey

My research aspirations sparked from my long term teaching experience of handling courses in material technology and material sciences. My journey began in August 2010 and came to fruition in May 2015. While most engineers are exposed to the basic concepts of research during their ME/thesis, the arena of Ph.D is an altogether different ballgame. The overall process is more robust in ensuring originality and generating new knowledge. It calls for more refined skills starting with extensive literature search, distilling the essence of existing knowledge and expertise in the chosen area, asking the right research question, study design methodology, conducting precise experiments, documenting and analysing data to eventually writing and publishing.

The proverbial slip between the cup and lip is very true in this Endeavour and any number of hurdles and pitfalls can beleaguer

a research scholar. One should be particularly wary of the dangers of plagiarism to which new scholars can easily fall prey to, especially for most of us who study English as a second language. The related course work was extremely crucial in building up the requisite skill sets and innovative and interactive sessions in research methodology class played a great role in laying the right foundation. workshops and seminars on interdisciplinary topics and two Research Retreats (2012, 2015) provided more insight into the prevailing concepts of research and the international standards of publication. It is also important to have an open relationship with your supervisor and be receptive to their constructive feedback and experience in the said field especially when your progress appears to be slow and you have to keep revisiting the drawing board.

***The proverbial slip between the cup and lip is very true in this endeavour and any number of hurdles and pitfalls can beleaguer a research scholar.***

Dr. Muzzamil Ahmed S.  
Completed his Ph.D. from Jain University



## Summer Workshop on Quantitative Methods in Political Science Research 2015

Lokniti in collaboration with Jain University, Bengaluru, organized the Summer Workshop on ‘Analyzing Quantitative Data on Indian Politics’ from July 6th to July 17th 2015 at the Global Campus of Jain University. This was the ninth Summer School in the series which started in 2007. Twenty seven candidates were chosen by a committee of Lokniti members for this Summer School from over a 100 applications. The participants were from various institutions, universities and educational backgrounds including students from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Central University of Hyderabad, Jadavpur University, Calcutta University, Guwahati University and Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai. The resource persons for the summer school were Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director– CSDS, Dr. Suhas Palshikar, Prof. Savitribai Phule University, Pune, Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro-VC Jain University, Dr. Pradeep Chibber, University of California, Berkeley, Dr. Irfan Nooruddin, Georgetown University, Dr. Siddharth Swaminathan, Azim Premji University, Dr. Kailash K.K, Central University Hyderabad, Dr. Reetika Syal, Jain University and Ms. Jyoti Mishra, Lokniti.

The Summer School emphasises on making sense of quantitative data on Indian politics. It brings together a group of political scientists with the aim of providing them an opportunity to improve their skills in quantitative analysis. The selected participants were given a set of readings before they came to attend the workshop. The participants had to attend lectures and practical data analysis sessions. The two week residential workshop aimed at equipping young social science researchers with the skills of quantitative data analysis, focusing not merely on the statistical methods but also dilating on formulating research questions and logically following research and data analysis techniques to come up with an answer to the research question. Data from the National Election Study 2014 (an opinion survey conducted by Lokniti) was used as the basis for analysis. Every participant made a presentation at the end of the workshop, by choosing an appropriate research question and using the quantitative data to analyze the same. The workshop was an enriching experience for each and every participant where each of them went back learning a lot and also made progress on their quantitative data analysis tools. The two weeks at the residential campus of Jain University was a wonderful experience where our participants were treated with the right amount of comfort and care. Many participants stated that for them the entire two weeks which they spent with each other was like spending time with family.

One participant from Jharkhand Central University noted that this workshop was very different from any of the other methodology workshops he had attended. He was surprised at the fact that all resource persons who came to teach were so interested in each of the participant’s research projects and answered all sorts of methodology questions, even if it related to the participants’ M.Phil or Ph.D work.

Report by Editorial Team



Summer school participants at the global campus

## Current Research Pursuits in the Centre for Nano and Material Sciences

Centre for Nano and Material Sciences (CNMS), keeps its pace going, bagging another seven projects which are to start off by August 15<sup>th</sup> 2015. The young scientists Dr Srinivasa, Dr S Patil, Dr Ramakrishna, Dr Ahipha and Dr Madhuprasad had proposed their core research problems namely, Palladium and Nickel complexes for C-C/C-N activation to synthesize colon cancer drug molecules, design of glassy carbon electrodes for toxic ion sensing, luminescent liquid crystals for electronic devices and reusable devices for ion removal respectively, each to **Department of Science and Technology**.

Further the **Naval Research Board** funds Dr Geetha Balakrishna and Dr Mahesh Padaki to find a solution to fouling of membranes in pilot plants of Desalination Units.

The NANO scientists had their track record and hard work paid off when **Nano Mission, DST** announced a sufficiently big funding to PI's Dr Geetha Balakrishna and Dr Makaveer Kurkuri, along with other 4 Co-PI's to concentrate on some major critical issues concerning health, energy and water.

The funding adds a huge responsibility of exploiting the nanoscale properties of materials to innovate specific solutions to a) efficiently capture cancer tumor cells b) enhance efficiency in quantum dot solar cells c) improve octane number in petroleum fractions d) targeted delivery and treatment of tumor d) rapid and easy sensing of bio-molecules e) complete elimination of emerging contaminants namely personal care and pharmaceutical products.

Dr. Geetha Balakrishnan  
Professor and Director, CNMS



**“Truth is ever to be found in simplicity, and not in the multiplicity and confusion of things”.**

**- Issac Newton**

**Team Thinklet would like to bid farewell to two of our editorial team members: Ms. Nayantara Kurpad and Ms. Divya Gangadar. Nayantara relinquished her duties at CERSSE to pursue her doctoral studies and Divya completed her term of employment with the Centre in July. We wish them both the very best in their future endeavours.**

### *Team Thinklet*

**Chief Editors:** Dr. Mythili Rao and Dr. Reetika Syal

**Editorial Team:** Kriti Chopra

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Mail articles to: thinklet@jainuniversity.ac.in