



EDITORIAL

FROM LEGACY TO NEW HORIZONS: A RENEWED VISION FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCHOLARSHIP

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The publication of Volume 1, Issue 1 of the Jawaharlal Nehru College Multidisciplinary Research Journal (JNCMRJ) marks an important milestone in the continuing academic journey of Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat. With the release of this first issue online, the journal enters a new era of accessibility and visibility for contributors and readers alike. More than the launch of a journal under a renewed identity, this inaugural volume of JNCMRJ represents an institutional commitment: to honour an established academic legacy, strengthen a culture of research and inquiry, and advance multidisciplinary scholarship, innovation, academic integrity and societal responsibility.

Established in 1964, Jawaharlal Nehru College occupies a pioneering place in the history of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh. The College began its academic journey on 3 July 1964 with 42 students and eight faculty members and remained the lone institution of higher learning in the State until 1978 (Jawaharlal Nehru College, 2019). Over the decades, it has grown from these modest beginnings into an institution that has played a formative role in Arunachal Pradesh's educational and intellectual development.

The institutional journey has also been marked by significant academic milestones, including recognition by the University Grants Commission as a College with Potential for Excellence in 2010, with the status renewed in 2014. The College received NAAC Grade B++ in 2006, Grade A in 2014 and Grade B in 2019 (Jawaharlal Nehru College, 2025). These milestones form part of a larger history of teaching, learning and service that has enabled

generations of students to contribute to education, administration, science, literature, public service and diverse other spheres of society.

This legacy is a source of pride, but legacy also carries responsibility. A premier institution of higher education must not merely preserve what previous generations have built; it must continually renew itself. It must respond to new knowledge, new technologies, new societal challenges, and new ways of understanding the world. Within this spirit of continuity with renewal, JNCMRJ takes its present form.

FROM ARUNACHAL VISION TO JNCMRJ: CONTINUITY WITH RENEWAL

The scholarly roots of JNCMRJ trace back to Arunachal Vision, whose Volume 1, Issue 1 was published in 2012 by the Research and Development Cell of Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat. Arunachal Vision provided an institutional platform for research, scholarly expression, and academic engagement. It represented an important step in the College's efforts to strengthen a culture of research alongside its longstanding commitment to teaching and higher education.

We respectfully acknowledge the vision and efforts of the former Principals, the Research and Development Cell, editors, faculty members, researchers, contributors, and all those associated with Arunachal Vision since its first volume in 2012. Their collective contribution created an important scholarly foundation upon which the present journal is being renewed.

The Jawaharlal Nehru College Multidisciplinary Research Journal (JNCMRJ) emerges within this established institutional tradition of scholarly publishing. While it has its own title and editorial identity, it acknowledges the scholarly legacy represented by Arunachal Vision and carries forward the College's wider commitment to research and academic publication. JNCMRJ seeks to broaden multidisciplinary engagement, strengthen editorial and academic standards, and respond to the contemporary landscape of higher education and research.

The publication of Arunachal Vision, Vol. 1, Issue 1 in 2012 marked an important milestone in the College's institutional research-publishing journey. In 2026, JNCMRJ begins its own publication journey within that broader scholarly tradition, with a multidisciplinary vision. It welcomes original, rigorous, and ethically conducted scholarship across the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, with particular encouragement for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research of regional, national, and global relevance.

IN STEP WITH NEP 2020

This multidisciplinary orientation is closely aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020. NEP 2020 envisages a re-energized higher education system characterized by multidisciplinary learning, high-quality teaching and research, institutional and faculty autonomy, creativity, critical thinking, and stronger research communities across disciplines (Ministry of Education, Government of India, 2020).

For Jawaharlal Nehru College, this national transformation provides both an opportunity and a responsibility. The institution must preserve the values and traditions that have sustained it for more than six decades while simultaneously adapting to contemporary developments in research, technology, and higher education. JNCMRJ is one expression of that commitment.

Through this journal, we seek to encourage scholarly interaction among disciplines, strengthen the research orientation of faculty and students, provide greater visibility to meaningful research and contribute to an institutional environment in which

teaching, inquiry, research, innovation and community engagement reinforce one another.

ROOTED IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH, OPEN TO THE WORLD

Jawaharlal Nehru College's location gives this endeavor a distinctive intellectual context. Arunachal Pradesh offers immense possibilities for inquiry across the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities through its natural environment, diverse communities, languages, cultural traditions, indigenous knowledge systems and changing socio-economic landscape.

The University Grants Commission's guidelines on Indian Knowledge Systems recognize the importance of systematically studying knowledge and practices developed, refined and preserved across generations by India's communities, including tribal communities (University Grants Commission, 2023). This approach is particularly relevant for a research institution situated in Arunachal Pradesh.

JNCMRJ therefore seeks to encourage responsible, ethically grounded scholarship that engages with regional realities while connecting them to wider questions of national and global importance. Research involving indigenous and community knowledge should respect appropriate ethical principles, acknowledge knowledge holders and communities, and safeguard their intellectual and cultural interests.

Geographical remoteness should never translate into academic invisibility. The journal's geographical roots should not define the limits of its intellectual horizon; rather, they should provide a distinctive vantage point from which knowledge can be generated and shared.

Research originating in our region should not remain at the margins of wider academic conversations. When locally grounded questions are investigated with methodological rigor, ethical responsibility and intellectual openness, they can contribute significantly to broader knowledge.

SCHOLARSHIP WITH INTEGRITY AND PURPOSE

As JNCMRJ begins its renewed journey, our commitment is not merely to publish research, but to

help cultivate a culture of responsible scholarship. The journal shall endeavor to uphold originality, academic integrity, ethical research, rigorous and fair peer review, responsible authorship, transparency, scholarly independence, and intellectual openness.

While JNCMRJ carries the name, institutional identity and academic heritage of Jawaharlal Nehru College, editorial decisions shall be guided by scholarly merit, research integrity and fair peer review. The journal welcomes emerging researchers and established scholars alike, but publication must ultimately rest upon originality, methodological soundness, ethical compliance and academic merit.

Academic journals earn respect gradually. A title, an institution, or the number of papers published cannot establish credibility. It is earned through consistent editorial standards, fair peer review, respect for evidence, scholarly independence, and the quality and relevance of the research that enters the permanent academic record.

The journal will also remain attentive to developments in digital scholarship, artificial intelligence, and other emerging technologies, encouraging their responsible and transparent use in research and scholarly communication.

FROM RESEARCH TO SOCIETAL IMPACT

The vision of JNCMRJ extends beyond academic publication. Research advances knowledge, but for an institution deeply connected with society, its significance should also be reflected in its capacity to illuminate real problems, inform understanding, and contribute, directly or indirectly, to human and societal well-being.

The University Grants Commission has recognized social responsibility and community engagement as important dimensions of higher education. NEP 2020 likewise situates quality research, multidisciplinary education and community engagement within its broader transformation of higher education (University Grants Commission, 2022; Ministry of Education, Government of India, 2020).

For Arunachal Pradesh and the wider North-East Indian region, opportunities for socially relevant research are extensive. Environmental conservation, biodiversity, agriculture, water resources, health,

education, indigenous knowledge, cultural heritage, livelihoods, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development are among the many areas in which systematic research can contribute to better understanding and informed action.

Not every research paper will produce an immediate practical outcome, nor should research be judged solely by immediate utility. Fundamental inquiry remains essential to advancing knowledge. Nevertheless, the journal will encourage researchers to remain conscious of the wider relevance and possible implications of their scholarship.

NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS

A journal associated with a higher educational institution must also contribute to building the research culture from which future scholarship will emerge. Young faculty members, research scholars and students should be encouraged to question, investigate and communicate their findings. At the same time, encouragement must be paired with training in research methodology, ethics, academic writing, responsible use of technology, and respect for evidence.

JNCMRJ aspires to provide space for emerging scholars without compromising scholarly standards. In doing so, the journal can help develop a generation of researchers who are locally grounded, methodologically competent, ethically responsible, and intellectually prepared to participate in national and international academic conversations.

LOOKING TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS

Higher education and research are entering an era of extraordinary transformation. Digital technologies, artificial intelligence, data-driven research, open science and global scholarly networks are changing how knowledge is generated, analyzed, communicated and accessed. Institutions located far from traditional metropolitan centers of research no longer need to remain at the periphery of knowledge creation.

The challenge before us is therefore not simply to keep pace with the modern world, but to develop the capacity and confidence to contribute to it. For Jawaharlal Nehru College, JNCMRJ represents one step in that direction. The College brings to this endeavor a distinguished institutional history; the

journal must now translate that legacy into a forward-looking culture of research and scholarly communication.

Our aspiration is not simply to establish another academic journal, but to build, over time, a trusted scholarly platform through which knowledge generated in Arunachal Pradesh and elsewhere can participate meaningfully in wider national and global academic conversations.

We begin this renewed journey with a clear understanding that academic recognition must be earned over time. Our immediate responsibility is more fundamental: to establish sound editorial practices, uphold research integrity, strengthen peer review, publish meaningful scholarship, and remain consistent in our commitment to quality. Sustained credibility will depend upon the strength of these foundations.

A COMMITMENT FOR THE FUTURE

With the publication of this inaugural volume of JNCMRJ, the Editorial Board accepts both an honor and a responsibility. We acknowledge the scholarly tradition represented by Arunachal Vision while establishing JNCMRJ with its own multidisciplinary identity and a clear commitment to research of academic and societal relevance.

We invite faculty members, researchers, scholars and students — from Jawaharlal Nehru College, Arunachal Pradesh, North-East India and beyond — to participate in this intellectual endeavor. We also recognize that JNCMRJ's success will depend on a larger scholarly community: authors who entrust us with their research, reviewers who contribute their expertise, editors who safeguard academic standards, institutions that encourage collaboration, and readers who engage critically with the knowledge we publish.

As Editor-in-Chief, I accept responsibility for this inaugural volume with the conviction that the true measure of JNCMRJ will lie not in how much we publish, but in the integrity, quality, and relevance of what we place in the scholarly record. I reaffirm our commitment to developing JNCMRJ through academic integrity, fairness, scholarly independence, multidisciplinary openness and continuous improvement.

The history of Jawaharlal Nehru College provides us with a strong foundation. The contemporary world offers new possibilities. Between the two lies our responsibility — to preserve what is valuable, embrace what is transformative, and create knowledge that remains meaningful to society.

May JNCMRJ serve as a bridge between legacy and innovation, between disciplines, between local knowledge and global scholarship, between generations of researchers and, above all, between knowledge and society.

Rooted in Arunachal Pradesh, strengthened by the legacy of Jawaharlal Nehru College, multidisciplinary in scholarship, global in outlook, and committed to society.

Dr. Temin Payum

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Jawaharlal Nehru College Multidisciplinary Research Journal (JNCMRJ)

Volume 1, Issue 1, September 2026

Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat

Arunachal Pradesh, India

Published by JournalsKart – Jawaharlal Nehru College Multidisciplinary Research Journal, Vol. 1, Issue No. 1, Jul–Sept 2026.

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