



November 2025

Newsletter Vol 2

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO



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President's note

Dear Members and Friends of JUAn Toronto,

I hope you all had a wonderful Durga Puja and Diwali, filled with joy, togetherness, and celebration. As the vibrant colors of fall give way to the quiet beauty of winter, I wish everyone warmth, good health, and renewed energy for the season ahead.

As outlined in our first newsletter, JUAn Toronto remains committed to expanding both our social and professional development programs. These initiatives not only bring our community closer together but also help us support one another as we grow and adapt in our home away from home.

At the same time, the current economic conditions and high inflation make it important for us to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of our organization. To that end, we are considering a modest increase in our annual membership fee from \$25 to \$30, effective next year. We value your opinion and welcome your feedback on this proposal. Please feel free to share your thoughts with us at jualumni.to@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you all at our next cultural program on November 22, which promises to be an evening of music, art, and community spirit.

Thank you for your continued support and for being the heart of JUAn Toronto.

Warm regards,
Dr. Kaushik Sarkar
President, JUAn Toronto



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The Jadavpur University Alumni Association Toronto (JUAn) was officially launched in July 1998 at the North American Bengali Conference (NABC).

JUAn Founders

Late Kanti Hore

Chandrayee Saha

Rabin Chatterjee

Jyoti Bose

Samit Saha

Founding narrative

Chandrayee Saha immigrated to Canada in December 1996. The following is her account, in her own words, of how the JUAn was established.

"At that time, Canada was actively welcoming engineers through a fast-track immigration program for foreign-trained professionals. I considered myself fortunate: I had already studied here, had relevant work experience, and was supported by family and friends. Settling in was relatively smooth for me.

However, at work and in the news, I frequently heard about the many new immigrants who were struggling to settle in and find meaningful employment. Their challenges resonated deeply with me. In December 1997, during a casual gathering at a friend's uncle's basement – inspired by a few ideas and helped along by a few free beers – six of us decided to create a social group to connect and support new Canadians.



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Founding narrative

-By Chandrayee Saha

Our founding group included four recent graduates who had studied in Canada, one experienced immigrant new to the country, and a senior professional who had lived and worked here for over two decades. What united us was a shared alma mater — Jadavpur University.

Armed with just phone numbers and email addresses, we formed a volunteer organization: Jadavpur Alumni Association, Toronto Chapter (JUAn). We began reaching out to recruit members and set two primary goals:

Practical Settlement Support:

Help one another with everyday essentials — writing a Canadian-style résumé, searching for jobs, opening a bank account, buying a car or a house — the basic yet daunting tasks for newcomers in a pre-internet era, before Facebook and LinkedIn. With some effort and collaboration, we could manage this goal effectively.

Professional Licensing and Recognition:

The second goal proved far more challenging. As engineers, we were not permitted to work without a Professional Engineer (P.Eng.) license. To qualify, one needed to have worked for at least three years under a Canadian-licensed engineer — a reasonable rule for recent graduates, but an obstacle for experienced foreign-trained professionals.



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Founding narrative

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Guided by advice from our senior members, we decided to organize "Professionals' Day Meets" — networking sessions for foreign-trained professionals. These events included discussions with the Finance Minister, the Human Resources Minister, and the Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO). A major Canadian bank and several businesses generously sponsored these events.

During these discussions, we highlighted the struggles of new immigrants: the difficulty of getting foreign credentials recognized, accessing credit and insurance, and the frustration of being unable to practice one's own profession. Over the next two years, we held several follow-up meetings with PEO and government ministers, each time bringing more members — putting real faces to the issues at hand.

PEO listened. The ministers listened. Gradually, new programs were introduced — pathways for licensing, career bridging, and professional mentorship. Our members began obtaining their licenses, advancing in their careers, and building lasting friendships.

What began as a small alumni group evolved into a thriving community — one grounded in shared experiences, mutual support, and a collective commitment to helping newcomers succeed in Canada".



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Veterans week Nov 5-11

A tribute in honour of their sacrifices,
dedication, courage and contribution.

Lest we Forget



November 8 – Indigenous Veterans Day
Dedicated to the First nations, Inuits and Métis
Veterans.

November 11 – Remembrance Day
A tribute to all Veterans who gave their life in
service to Canada.

Purple poppy in memory of Animal
Veterans who served alongside the
Canadian Armed Forces.



**Join!
Now**

Are you or your family member a JU Alumni?

Send an email to become a member
jualumni.to@gmail.com



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The poster has a light yellow background with a decorative border of orange and red autumn leaves. At the top center, the title 'JUAN Bijoya Utsav' is written in a large, bold, red serif font. Below it, the date 'SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 2025' is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. A line of red cursive text reads 'Flavours of Friendship, Beats of Tradition'. The event schedule is listed in black sans-serif font: '6:00-6:30PM - Tea and Snacks', '6:30 - 7:30 PM - Cultural Show', and '8:00 PM - Dinner'. To the right of the schedule is a small illustration of two women in traditional Indian attire (one in green and red, the other in red and green) performing a dance. Below the schedule, the venue is listed: 'VENUE: BHARAT SEVASHRAM SANGHA CANADA', '2107 CODLIN CRESCENT, TORONTO, ON M9W 5K7'. Below the venue, it says 'Please e-transfer to jualumni.to@gmail.com'. At the bottom center, a red oval contains the text '\$25 per person. Free for children under 12 years' in white sans-serif font.

Open call for performers - Singing, recitation, dance, instrumental, short skits, poetry

Inviting our amazing alumni to participate – with special encouragement for your children to join in!

We're also seeking behind-the-scenes volunteers for:

- Set & stage design
- Sound engineering / A/V
- Light scripting & emceeing
- Backstage coordination and logistics

If you or your child would like to perform, or if you're interested in helping with production, please email jualumni.to@gmail.com the following details:

Name(s) and contact

Performance type (and duration, if applicable) / Volunteer area of interest.



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A walk through cherished memories

JUAn Picnic - 2013





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JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO

A walk through cherished memories

JUAn Picnic - 2014



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JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO

A walk through cherished memories

JUAn Picnic - 2019





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A walk through cherished memories

JUAn Picnic - 2022





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A walk through cherished memories

JUAn Picnic - 2023





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JUAn Picnic - 2024





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A walk through cherished memories

JUAn Picnic - 2025





Thank you for joining us in this edition and for being part of our growing community. We look forward to sharing more stories, and updates with you in the next issue.



**JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
TORONTO**