



Vice Chancellor's
Address

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CONVOCAATION

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President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Amir-i-Jamia, Hon'ble M.A. Zaki, distinguished guests, members of the press, Jamia fraternity- my colleagues and students, ladies and gentlemen: It gives me great pleasure to welcome our Chief Guest the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Jamia Millia Islamia. I have equal pleasure in welcoming our Guest of Honour Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani. I also extend a warm welcome to all other guests.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have celebrated our 94th Foundation Day on 29th October this year. We are only six years away from centenary celebrations. The vision of our founding fathers to carve an institution committed to nationalist ideals and to espouse amity in the comity of nations will receive a resounding endorsement through the continuance of their heritage. Today, we have assembled here not only to acknowledge the accomplishments of our graduating students but also to get a view of how we should academically look at ourselves in future and our relevance for the Indian society.

Today, Jamia is poised to take a leap into future. The university has created a roadmap for progress. I assumed the office of the Vice Chancellor few months earlier this year. I consider myself fortunate to join the ranks of my illustrious predecessors who have shaped the institution as it obtains today. I shoulder an enormous responsibility to carry forward their legacy. Jamia finds itself ready to receive cutting edge learning experience with internationally benchmarked education, intellectual freedom and critical opportunities in key areas of contemporary concern. We are striving to produce an intelligent human resource pool for the promotion of economic growth, cultural development, social cohesion, equity and justice.

Jamia is in the midst of administrative, academic and examination reforms. We are in the process of introducing Choice-based Credit System to empower students by facilitating mobility across academic disciplines as per their inclinations and aptitude and at the same time fostering quality research evaluated with reference to Citation Index and Journal Impact Factor. Jamia is aware of the demands of modern day education in the globalised world order and fully appreciates the fact that its pertinence as a university would be determined by the impact it creates for the people of India. In pursuance of this objective, Jamia is essaying to bring the entire stake-holders together to work collectively and systematically.

I propose to put Jamia on the national map in regard to Environmental Studies, Earth Sciences, Glacial Studies and Climate Change. Natural calamities can put a roadblock in the country's progress and thus need to be investigated scientifically with patience and perseverance. We are seriously contemplating opening new departments and faculties of learning that would go a long way in not only preserving our plural cultural heritage but also assign us leadership roles in various domains of knowledge. With the encouragement and support of the Government of India, we will be in a position to actualize many of our objectives in the interest of the common people.

For the academic year 2014-15, Jamia received over 1.25 lakh applications for various academic programmes on offer, out of which 86 thousand were males and 39 thousand females. The undergraduate programmes attracted the maximum number of applications that included applications for professional and non-professional courses. We are committed to promoting education among girls and we propose to reach out to our potential female students, particularly from the minority

community, to motivate them to seek admission in Jamia. We wish to achieve gender parity in Jamia so that women remain equal beneficiaries of constitutional provisions. With targeted programmes and interventions, Jamia will 'walk the talk' in getting more women into education.

Jamia has put in place mechanisms to strengthen linkages with the industry. The university has put in place an Innovation and Entrepreneurship Cell to encourage students and faculty to come together to work on technological projects that lead to the creation of innovative user friendly products with the help of the industry. We have also initiated measures to have a vibrant University Placement Cell to strengthen institution-industry linkages and to forge ties with national and multinational companies. This will promote good placement opportunities for students not only in the professional courses but also in generalist courses. Over 120 companies approach Jamia every year to offer summer placements and employment to students. We end up raising around 400 offers to the students of our university and we want to augment this figure exponentially.

I am very happy to announce that Jamia is ready for NAAC Accreditation. The university has provided 50 core indicators as asked by the NAAC for the purposes of assessment. Besides NAAC accreditation, Jamia is aiming at a global ranking for which we need to augment our H-Index which presently is 53+ and our research citation in the neighbourhood of 22,000. Our subscription to the international citation database Scopus is enabling us to access and keep track of global information on citations, authors and publications. We have also submitted our Global Institutional Profile for Global ranking with the Times Higher Education World University Ranking through Thomson Reuters. Our endeavour is to raise the bar in respect of teaching and research programmes.

We are also engaged in upgrading and expanding our infrastructure which is one of the salient requirements for the growth of the university. Under the 12th Five Year Plan, we propose to construct new buildings to house teaching departments and centres, besides creating new accommodation for staff, developing hostels for girls and also for scheduled caste and tribe students.

To prevent the occurrence of any untoward incident on the campus Jamia follows zero- tolerance for any form of discrimination. We are committed to create an academic space on the campus bereft of any manifestation of discrimination in respect of language, gender, caste, creed, religion and region. Jamia in its true spirit, and in pursuance of the vision of its founding fathers, strives to represent the best that a university can possibly offer. I am very happy to share that we are in the process of creating a dedicated space on the Jamia website linked with the Delhi Police portal to highlight issues and concerns of students from the north-eastern states.

We are also strengthening the distance education programme in the university. We want to reach out to students living in remote areas of the country by giving them an opportunity to benefit from the academic programmes of the university. This will not only reinforce our resolve and efforts to augment the Gross Enrolment Ratio of the country but also open a plethora of courses to deprived sections of the society making education accessible and affordable.

Ladies and gentlemen, Jamia has over 19000 students enrolled in over 200 unique academic programmes. We want to ensure that every department, centre and faculty subscribes to best teaching and pedagogical practices. Jamia continues to attract foreign students. As of now, we have around 232 foreign students enrolled from 38 countries. Countries like

Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Nepal Mauritius, Turkey and the USA are strongly represented.

Jamia, in its pursuit to benchmark quality teaching and research, has entered into collaborations with foreign educational institutions. We have over 50 memoranda of understanding for academic collaborations with many top universities across the world. Many of them are in an active state. Of late, we have received requests for international collaboration from Indonesia, Malaysia, Germany, France, Australia, Finland, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Japan and the United States of America. These international linkages will raise the standard of the university.

Access to e-journals and in-house library resources like manuscripts, doctoral dissertations submitted by students and selected rare books, is just a click away, thanks to the launch of a Digital Resource Centre at Zakir Husain Library. Both boys and girls enjoy equal opportunities in accessing the conventional and digital resources. Our students have been making their mark in different streams of life.

Ladies and gentlemen, once we induct the students, we wish to create an enabling atmosphere for them on the campus to promote seamless academic pursuit and excellence. There is a provision for credit transfer (which is going to be expanded comprehensively), smart classrooms, central instrumentation facility (which is a highly expensive platform with advanced analytical instruments) that could be used by researchers from various departments, centres and also people outside the university system. Students are given e-mail IDs (which they could retain in their alumni status) on a Wi-Fi enabled campus. The university has been making special interventions in the form of Communicative English Programme and Self Enrichment Programme for the students who come from

under-privileged and marginalized sections of the society. Our enabling mechanism in the form of the Residential Coaching academy has paid dividends. We train women candidates, and those belonging to Scheduled castes and tribes and minorities to compete for civil services. Twelve students from the Academy entered into top civil services, 51 others were selected for other services like Intelligence Bureau, Bank PO, Central armed Paramilitary Forces and state administrative services. This year 73 students from the Academy run by the Centre for Coaching and Career Planning have cleared Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination.

Jamia, through its Outreach Programme, reaches out to its neighbourhood to address its issues and concerns. The Outreach Programme of Jamia Millia Islamia in collaboration with the Dr. Zakir Husain Memorial Welfare Society and the Telecom Sector Skill Council(TSSC) launched an all-women training programme to develop the skills of women aged between 18-35 to train them as 'in-store promoters' to enhance their employability. There is a batch of 30 women waiting for their certification that would make them land jobs as customer care executives, sales executives and field sales executives in different branded stores dealing with mobile phones and allied equipment.

I derive great satisfaction in sharing this with you that we are in the process of having a large canteen on the campus which would be exclusively managed by the Self-Help Group for women from the Jamia neighbourhood that has been set up with the support of our university. This is, one of our ways, to assert our commitment to women's empowerment by enabling those who find themselves on the periphery.

Ladies and gentlemen, Jamia very actively participated in Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. All the

departments, centres and faculties came forward to make it a huge success. We wish to continue with that campaign on a sustainable basis by putting processes and systems in place. We also celebrated Ekta Diwas to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31st October and National Education Day on November 11 to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Azad.

Finally, I wish all the students, who are leaving the portals of this historic institution a great life and career ahead. The university invests a lot of hope and promise in you. We are confident that you will do the university and our nation proud.

Thank you all.

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