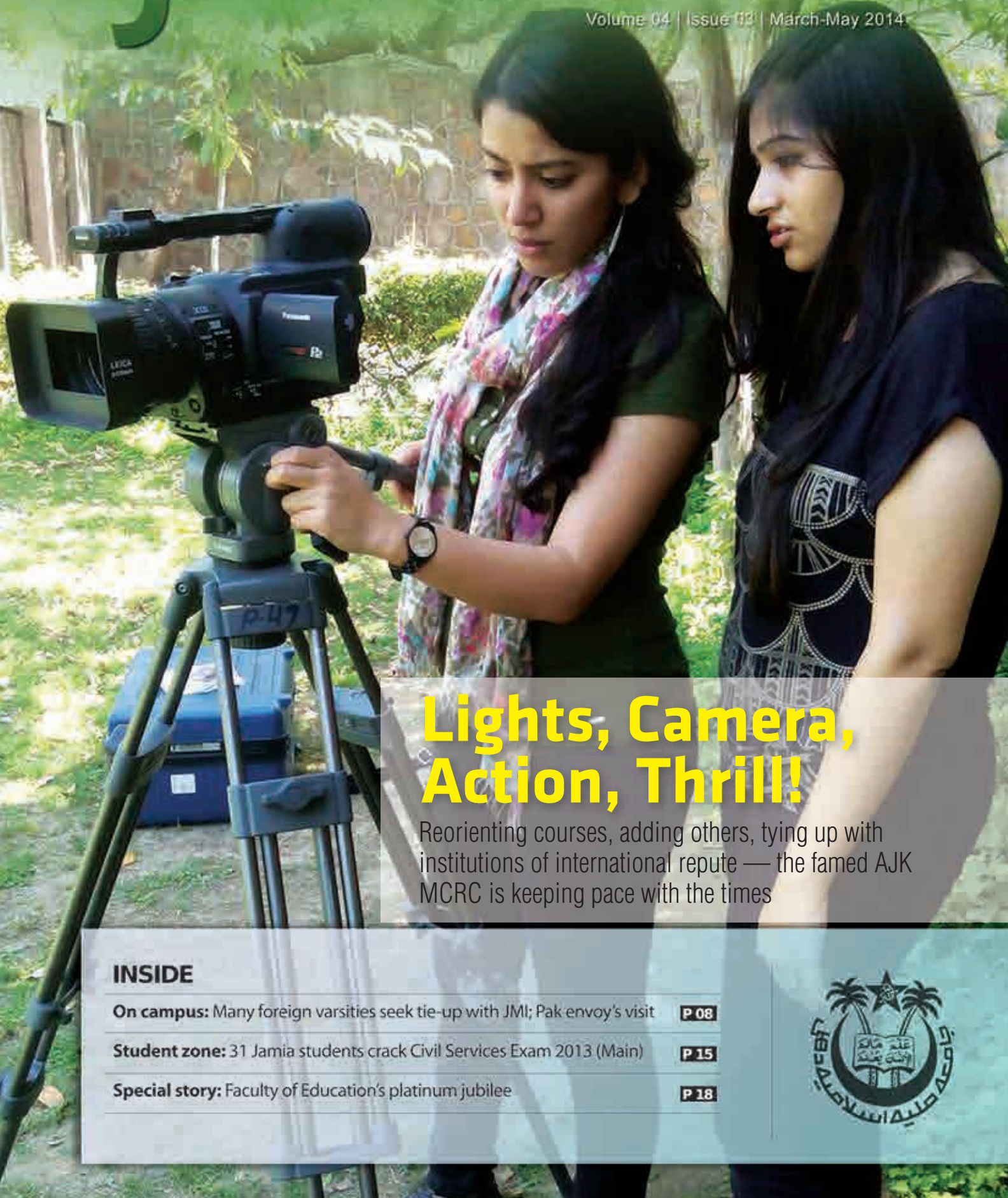


JAUHAR

Volume 04 | Issue 12 | March-May 2014



Lights, Camera, Action, Thrill!

Reorienting courses, adding others, tying up with institutions of international repute — the famed AJK MCRC is keeping pace with the times

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Student zone: 31 Jamia students crack Civil Services Exam 2013 (Main) **P 15**

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● 9 Faculties ● 39 Departments ● 27 Centres of Excellence and Research ● 238 Courses ● 991 Faculty Members ● Over 16,500 Undergraduate, Post-Graduate and Diploma/Certificate Students

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Maulana Mohamed Ali 'Jauhar'
Founder, Jamia Millia Islamia

From the Vice-Chancellor

Jamia Millia Islamia came into existence in 1920 through the tireless efforts of its founders, such as Shaikhul Hind Maulana Mahmud Hasan, Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar, Hakim Ajmal Khan, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari, Jenab Abdul Majeed Khwaja and Dr. Zakir Husain. It symbolises the unflinching and resolute commitment of these great visionaries in bringing about socio-economic transformation of common masses, in general, and Muslims, in particular through the vehicle of education. The distinct identity of Jamia Millia Islamia has been eloquently articulated by Dr. Zakir Husain Sahib, and I quote:

“The movement of Jamia Millia Islamia is a struggle for education and cultural renaissance. It will prepare a blueprint for Indian Muslims which may focus on Islam but simultaneously evolve a national culture for common Indian. It will lay the foundation of the thinking that true religious education will promote patriotism and national integration among Indian Muslims, who will be proud to take part in the future progress of India, which will play its part in the comity of nations for peace and development. The objective of establishment of Jamia Millia Islamia will be to lay down the common curriculum for Indian Muslims taking into account the future challenges and will prepare the children to be masters of future.”

The mission of the founding fathers of this great institution should not only serve as a beacon light for all the stakeholders, but should also inspire us in making this university as one of the premier institutions of higher learning in the world. It should attain distinction in providing cutting edge learning experience, internationally benchmarked education, intellectual freedom and critical research opportunities in frontier areas of contemporary concern.

While the University has come a long way since its inception, it has to keep pace with the changing needs and expectations of the society. It has to successfully perform the multiple roles of creating new knowledge, acquiring new capabilities and producing an intelligent human resource pool for the promotion of economic growth, cultural development, social cohesion, equity and justice.

In view of the special status of Jamia Millia Islamia in our country, we need to deliberate upon reconstituting the academic programmes through introduction of Choice-based Credit System, discuss suitable examination and administrative reforms and consider use of international benchmarks, such as Citation Index, Journal Impact Factor etc. for evaluating the quality of our research. I also exhort all the faculty members to formulate research project proposals either singly or in collaboration with other researchers of this or other institutions for financial support by the national and international funding agencies.

Apart from strengthening the teaching-learning process, research and extension programmes, special focus on extracurricular, sports and other similar activities to foster global competencies among the students is our priority. Let us work collectively and systematically to promote growth of this institution and make it the first choice of students.

I extend my best wishes and regards to all my colleagues, students and readers.
Happy reading.

Prof Talat Ahmad
Vice-Chancellor



In the quest of The Other

The AJK MCRC in Jamia is not just the place that teaches media skills to its students. It's a place where students are exposed to newer interpretations of issues, mundane and critical

Centre for excellence: The building that houses the famous MCRC in Jamia



Kiran Rao Filmmaker

THE MASTERS course at MCRC was designed to give an overview of the different methods of mass communication, and there were parts of the course I enjoyed more than others, like film appreciation, video studies and visual communication.

But by and large what it helped me do was to float around in the world of visuals and sound and find my own way of making sense of them. Interaction with lecturers like Shohini Ghosh and Sabeena Gadihoke, Sudhanva Deshpande, Rajeev Lochan and Lalit Vacchani helped open up my mind to new ways of seeing, and I made great friends on the campus, who are part of my life even now.



It's a place where, as one of its famous alumnus puts it, the quest for 'The Other' begins. The Other could be many different things for different people. It's a place where the mind liberates, the critical thinking develops and a knack to question the conventions and challenge the stereotypes finds its roots. The Anwar Jamal Kidwai Mass Communication Research Centre (AJK MCRC) is that kind of a place, affirm its alumni without an exception.

Set up in 1982, the AJK MCRC was envisaged as an institute to provide quality professionals in the

field of mass media at a time when television was in a nascent stage, radio was jostling trying to liberate from the government monopoly, the print was not as visually attractive and web journalism was a distant dream.

In no time, the institute gained prominence and earned respect of the very best in the field so much so that within years of its humble beginnings, the MCRC became Jamia's identity and prestige.

No wonder then that it produced professionals who stand out in their respective fields be it actor Shah Rukh Khan filmmakers Kiran Rao, Habib



Habib Faisal

Film director/writer

I JOINED the MCRC in 1987 when it was still in its nascent stages. It was pre-internet time and the world had not become a global village till then. The access to information was not easy. But the then Vice-Chancellor of Jamia, Anwar Jamal Kidwai – popularly called AJ – had created an environment at MCRC that any student could approach any instructor any time and could discuss anything that pertained to his development as a professional. AJ had a vision and foresightedness and roped in people from foreign universities, including York University, who helped design the course.

The environment at MCRC was such that it inculcated secular and progressive values in the students. We were encouraged to ask questions, to think freely and to go against conventions and conventional wisdom. The faculty and the administrative staff were very supportive and encouraging. I still remember how once a long power cable – stretching almost a kilometre – was run from the main building all the way to a *dhaba* outside where I was shooting a documentary. And this was long after office hours as the documentary was scheduled to be shot at night. This was MCRC.

We also used to get a monthly stipend of Rs.300, which was a princely sum for us at that time. The tuition fee we paid was around Rs.160 for three months.

Faisal and Kabir Khan, radio jockey Roshan Abbas, or journalists Barkha Dutt and Hindol Sengupta. Speak to anyone of these and they still fondly recall their days at MCRC.

“Interaction with lecturers like Shohini Ghosh, Sabeena Gadihoke, Sudhanva Deshpande, Rajeev Lochan and Lalit Vacchani helped open up my mind,” recalls Rao.

What is common in the memories of these celebrity alumni is the “a different kind of environment” bit.

“I think MCRC used to be, in the years that I was there in early 2000s, a very different kind of space, a space unlike any other in any college in the country, far less in any other part of Jamia Millia. It had a real sense of uniqueness,” says writer-journalist Sengupta, a senior editor with *Forbes* (India) magazine.

The Centre’s DNA is such that it does not restrict

its students to subscribe to a particular ideology or way of thinking – it allows them to explore the world on their own. “AJ, who had conceived this centre, had created an environment at MCRC that any student could approach any instructor any time and could discuss anything that pertained to his development as a professional,” says film director Faisal.

“The best colleges allow students to decipher the world for themselves, away from the guidelines of a course and MCRC did that very successfully. So someone like me could, in that Left of Left film school, make a film on fashion as my graduation film,” says Sengupta.

KEEPING PACE WITH TIMES

The MCRC keeps adding new courses and restructuring the existing ones as per the changing needs of the industry. Currently, it offers seven postgraduate degree and diploma programmes in a gamut of fields. The courses are: MA in Mass Communication; MA in Convergent Journalism; MA in Visual Effects and Animation; MA in Development Communication; PG Diploma in Broadcast Technology; PG Diploma in Still Photography and Visual Communication and PG Diploma in Acting.

“The Centre has completely revised and restructured the syllabus of its flagship programme MA in Mass Communication with the help of York Univer-

‘The Centre has completely revised and restructured the syllabus of its flagship programme MA in Mass Communication. The aim of the exercise was to replace celluloid with digital cinema’

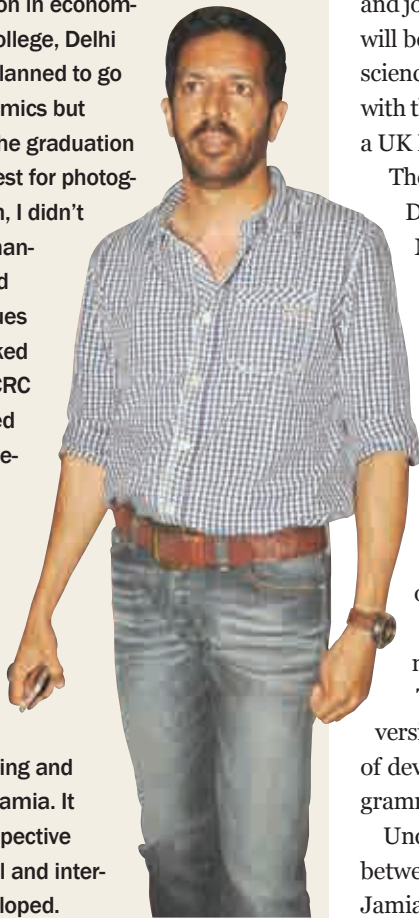
Kabir Khan Film director

THE MA in Mass Communication at the MCRC is an intensive course that gives you grounding in technical education. I passed out in 1992. The days spent at MCRC were very enriching. It's here that your aesthetics develop.

In those days, Jamia Millia Islamia was not what it is today. Ours was an island world. We had minimal contact with students from other disciplines.

I did my graduation in economics from Kirorimal College, Delhi University and had planned to go for Masters in economics but somewhere during the graduation I developed an interest for photography. But as a youth, I didn't know then how to channelise my energy and what were the avenues for me. My sister asked me to appear for MCRC entrance and I landed there. Once there, I realised this was the place for me.

The seeds of the creative and liberal thinking were sown at MCRC. And today as a professional I certainly owe a lot to my training and grooming at MCRC Jamia. It was here that a perspective about larger national and international issues developed.



sity, Canada. The aim of the exercise was to replace celluloid with digital cinema – the future medium of production for films,” informs MCRC Director Prof Obaid Siddiqui. The other course that has gone under the knife recently is MA in Convergent Journalism – the second most sought after course at the MCRC.

“We have also converted the PG Diploma in Development Communication and PG Diploma in Graphics & Animation into Masters' Degree programmes from the last academic session,” says Prof Siddiqui, an experienced media professional himself.



Digital age: The Centre boasts of two fully-equipped HDTV studios for multi-camera productions

FUTURE PERFECT

The Centre is in the process of introducing the Practice Based PhD programme in mass communication and journalism from the next academic session. This will be the first PhD programme of its kind in social sciences in India. The programme is being designed with the help of the University of Westminster under a UK India Education and Research Initiative grant.

The Centre is collaborating with the University of Delhi to offer a Masters' Degree programme in Mathematics Education under the concept of Meta University. This is the first-programme-of-its-kind, offered jointly by two central universities of the country.


FOREIGN HANDSHAKES

The MCRC has been running a successful students exchange programme with Sciences Po Paris. In this arrangement, three students from the MCRC go to Sciences Po for six weeks on a project and an equal number of students from Sciences Po come to the MCRC for a semester or two here.

The Centre has revived the ties with York University once again. The Centre is now in the process of developing a students and faculty exchange programme with the University.

Under the terms and conditions of an MoU signed between the University of Westminster (UK) and Jamia Millia Islamia, the MCRC is under the process of developing a students and faculty exchange programme and collaborating in the field of research.

Besides, the Centre has also developed educational ties with several UK-based universities, including University of London; Portsmouth University; University of Loughborough; University of Nottingham and University of Dundee.

The vision behind the MCRC – to make it a centre of excellence and learning and keep raising the bar – is still alive and kicking. The centre will produce many more professionals who would carve a niche for themselves in their various fields. 



'Peace is imperative'

Indo-Pak diplomacy should be rooted in honesty, argues Pak High Commissioner Abdul Basit

Arguing against the negativities that infest Indo-Pak relations, Pakistan's High Commissioner Abdul Basit observed that it was incumbent upon the leadership both in India and Pakistan to create a peaceful environment in the region for resolution of problems that bedevil the bilateral ties.

Addressing a group of academicians and scholars in Jamia Millia Islamia on "Pakistan's Foreign Policy: Challenges and Priorities", Abdul Basit acknowledged that Pakistan's foreign policy was underpinned by the security quest vis-à-vis India and therefore other considerations like development and establishment of fair and just international order could not receive adequate impetus.

It was imperative, Basit felt, that both India and Pakistan get out of vicious cycle of wars and non-productive diplomacy that have failed to resolve the core issues. He opined that both India and Pakistan should not take the dialogue process as a favour by one to another and called for a sustained comprehen-



Pakistan High Commissioner Abdul Basit speaking at a seminar at Jamia

sive dialogue process which need not reinvent the wheel but capitalise on the ground that has already been covered by both the countries in the past. ↓

Change of guard at Jamia



Prof Talat Ahmad (right) takes over as the 14th VC of Jamia

JAMIA MILLIA Islamia should provide cutting-edge learning experience, internationally-benchmarked education, intellectual freedom and critical opportunities in frontier areas of contemporary concern, said Prof Talat Ahmad, the University's new Vice Chancellor.

An earth scientist of international repute, Ahmad took over as the 14th vice chancellor of the 94-year-old university on May 15.

"Jamia will remain committed to producing intelligent human resource pool for the promotion of economic growth, cultural development, equity and justice," Ahmad told the university fraternity, adding that he would work towards making the university one of the premier institutions of higher learning.

He has served as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir. A PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Ahmad has had post-doctoral research stints with three foreign universities — Cambridge, Leicester and Nagoya.

Australia calls for collaboration

Jamia Millia is among the top universities that are on Australia's wishlist for partnership

Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to New Delhi, Bernard Philip, visited Jamia Millia Islamia and attended the valedictory function of the Communicative English Programme (CEP) & Self-Enrichment Programme (SEP) as the chief guest.

Addressing an audience comprising of faculty and students, Philip said that India and Australia needed to strengthen their bilateral ties further.

He said that Australia was keen to further academic collaborations with Indian universities and that Jamia was among the top institutions in Australia's wish list.

Drawing the audience's attention to the close bilateral ties that exist in several sectors, he stressed the need to carry forward the relationship in the academic sphere. He shared with the audience that the fastest growing foreign language in Australia was Punjabi, closely followed by Hindi.

Earlier, praising the efforts of the students who successfully completed the Communicative English



Linguistic skills: Bernard Philip awards certificates to students. Prof SM Sajid and Dr Mukesh Ranjan are also seen

Programme (CEP) and Self-Enrichment Programme (SEP) in Jamia, Philip emphasised how significant it was to develop clarity of ideas and effective communication skills. Both CEP and SEP have been started for students from socially and economically marginalised sections. 📌

Revisiting Tagore's works



Prof SM Sajid releasing the books published under TRTS scheme

Prof SM Sajid, officiating Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia released four books published as part of Tagore Research Translation Scheme (TRTS) at a function organised by the Department of Urdu on February 28. The books released were *Tagore*

Shanasi by Shamim Tariq; Tagore's *Gitanjali* translated into Urdu by Dr. Suhail Ahmad Farooqi; *Rabindranath Tagore: Shair Aur Danishwar* edited by Prof Wahajuddin Alvi and Shahzad Anjum; and *Tagore: Fikr-o-Fun ke Hazar Rang* edited by Wahajuddin Alvi and Shahzad Anjum.

Journalist Syed Faisal Ali, group head of Rashtriya Sahara media house was the guest of honour at the function. 📌

Saudi university keen to forge relations with JMI

A HIGH-PROFILE delegation from Al-Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University, Saudi Arabia visited Jamia Millia Islamia to explore opportunities of academic collaborations.

The delegates from the largest university in Saudi Arabia, led by Prof Sulaiman Abdullah Abal Khalil, sought intense academic interface with Jamia.

It was conveyed that Saudi Arabia would finance establishment of Chairs in respect of Islamic Studies and Civilisational Dialogue besides organising joint seminars, conferences and symposia.



Expanding horizons

US experts look for expanding academic engagements with Jamia



Exchanging notes: The US delegation in conversation with Jamia team

A US delegation of academic administrators visited Jamia Millia Islamia to interact with the university’s administrators and deans to acquaint themselves with the administrative structure and arrangements in place to run such a large university.

The delegation, which comprised of administrators from various US universities and institutions,

explored possibilities of academic collaborations and partnerships through agreements and MoUs.

Top on their priority was to identify strategic areas for faculty exchange, student exchange, joint research, international summer school and other opportunities that could be explored for consolidating and expanding the academic engagements.

The visit was jointly facilitated by the Office of the International Relations in Jamia Millia Islamia and United States India Educational Foundation, New Delhi.

The visiting delegation was glad to know about the additional support system that Jamia has put in place by way of special interventions to create a level playing field for students coming from marginalised and disadvantaged sections of the society.

Some new initiatives like collaborative teaching thorough video-conferencing with institutions in Europe and America were also discussed at the meet.

Prof SM Sajid informed the visiting delegation that Jamia has grown into an academically vibrant university launching new initiatives and setting goals in sync with national priorities. J

Dissent in democracies and other issues

THE RESEARCH scholars and faculty of the Centre for European and Latin American Studies organised a Young Scholars’ Seminar on March 25-26 on “The Dynamics of Development and Dissent in 21st Century Democracies.”

The objective of the seminar was to look at what can be considered one of the most striking features of the 21st century: an emphatic expression of dissent against the consensus-based liberal state and its apparatuses of domination.

The questions that the seminar sought to raise were, among others, as to whether the new forms of dissent involving the youth all across the globe had the potential to translate into an autonomous force; is democracy a mere institutional fact or is it possible to envisage it as collective action; and whether the occupation of public spaces – Puerta del Sol, Jantar Mantar, Tahrir Square etc- contain a critique of parliamentary institutions from the standpoint of radical active equality.

The seminar was inaugurated by Ambassador of Bolivia, Jorge Cardenas Robles, who, in his inaugural address spoke about the experience of radicalising democratic institutions in Bolivia, the first country in Latin America where an indigenous person (Evo Morales) was elected in 2006 to the office of the president.

Ambassador Cardenas pointed out that as international development strategies struggle to address issues of human insecurity and socioeconomic despair, inspiring alternatives are taking shape outside the traditional development discourse with the potential to revolutionise the ways in which development policy can be both informed by and contribute to social wellbeing in the Global South.

He said that in Bolivia the indigenous communities’ concept of “buen vivir” (living well) has been adopted by the government as a practice guiding human-centered development alternatives for inclusive wellbeing.



Gandhi and the 'Mahatma'

AS PART OF ITS Walter Sisulu Memorial Lecture series, the Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Jamia Millia Islamia, organised a lecture on the topic "The Doctor and The Saint: The Ambedkar-Gandhi Debate".

The lecture was delivered by noted writer and political commentator, Arundhati Roy.

Giving a backgrounder of Ambedkar's *Annihilation of Caste* she went on to speak about Gandhi's early years in South Africa and his views on caste.

Critiquing Gandhian thought relative to caste, capital and women, she found many of Gandhi's ideas incongruous and contradictory.

The gap in text and practice

THE CENTRE for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations (CSCRC) organised a two-day international conference on "Textual and Lived Religions: Precepts and Practices" on March 20-21.

Prof K.M. Shrimali delivered the keynote address.

The conference sought to explore the complex relationships between the inviolable written words of canonical and non-canonical texts and their dialectics and dimensions in society. Evidence from archaeology, epigraphy, visual and performing arts, and orally transmitted folk often questions and deviates from the established forms considered 'authentic'.

Coaching Academy gets new building

It was important to have adequate representation of minorities in the civil services, observes Delhi LG



Clipping, clapping: Delhi Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung inaugurating the new building of Residential Coaching Academy


Delhi Lieutenant Governor and former vice-chancellor of Jamia Najeeb Jung inaugurated the academic building of Residential Coaching Academy in Jamia Millia Islamia on March 28.

Addressing the audience, Jung observed that it was extremely important that there was adequate representation of minorities, SCs, STs and people from backward areas in the civil services.

He affirmed that one of the strengths of the Constitution of India was the principle that guarantees equality.

He hoped that Jamia Millia Islamia, with an excellent history for the promotion of the cause of the minorities, would actualise its enormous strength and potential through commitment and reflection. He requested the officiating Vice-Chancellor to make special allocation for development of a library under the aegis of Centre for Coaching and Career Planning (CC&CP).

Underlining the strength of Indian bureaucracy, the LG – a retired bureaucrat himself – stated that if India were to stay united then the country needed to invest in its people who will lead the nation. Earlier, officiating Vice-Chancellor Prof SM Sajid observed that Mr Jung, as former VC, deserved the credit for the establishment of some of the world-class buildings in Jamia.

He hoped that the civil service aspirants would dedicate themselves for the creation of an egalitarian society. He remarked that the university felt greatly honoured by the LG's presence. 



Of the blooming campus

The flower show is designed to improve the University gardeners' workmanship



Colours of nature: Gardeners exhibit their produce at the flower show at Jamia.

The Department of Horticulture organised a flower show competition on March 3-4 at Dr MA Ansari Au. The objective of the flower show competition was to improve the university gardeners' workmanship and inspire them to do better. University authorities always encourage the gardeners — the men behind the blooming campus that catches everybody's fancy — who work throughout the year for the preparation of annual flower show and maintenance of gardens in the institution.

Another objective of the flower show is to improve awareness about the variety of flowers and their importance, cultivation of flowers in pots and different possible floral arrangements.

It also aims at providing pollution-free healthy environment for the students, teachers, employees and the visitors at Jamia. J

'Economic reforms need to be sustained'

Delivering the Fifth Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew Annual Lecture on February 24 in Jamia Millia Islamia, economist Swaminathan SA Aiyar underlined the need to create an investor friendly environment in India for generation of employment and for greater economic growth.

Highlighting the importance of liberalisation, globalisation and the economic reforms that India ushered in the early 1990s, he said that barely 50 years ago India was a nation that survived on foreign aid and had a 'ship-to-mouth' existence.

He emphasised that reforms in social, political, governance, administration and judicial spheres were a prerequisite if economic reforms were to be sustained. "Poor governance, problems of neo-lib-



Swaminathan SA Aiyar

eralisation and the tardy implementation of policies have prompted companies like Apollo Tyres and Tata Group of Companies to make offshore investments owing to investment friendly regimes notwithstanding recession," Aiyar, a noted columnist, said.

"The Tata Group is, in fact, the largest employer in the UK today," he said. Aiyar also touched upon the declining female workforce in India. "It is a matter of deep concern that female workforce in urban areas in India is possibly the lowest in the world at 18 percent," he said.

The lecture was chaired by retired bureaucrat Dr. Jaimini Bhagwati who is currently working as a development economist with the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations. J

Time to reassess development

The contemporary economic development in India, rather than being antithetical to caste, gender and ethnic divisions, actually draw strength from the same divisions

THE DR. K.R. NARAYANAN Centre for Dalit & Minorities Studies organised the 7th Dr. K.R. Narayanan Lecture on “The Uses Of Otherness: Accumulation



Prof Jayati Ghosh responds to a question from the audience

and Social Divisions in India” on March 27.

The lecture was delivered by Prof Jayati Ghosh. Ghosh teaches economics at JNU.

Referring to the Nehruvian hope that modernisation and economic development in independent India would lead to the removal of caste, gender and ethnic discrimination, she stressed that the same could never be fulfilled.

She said that contemporary economic development in India, rather than being antithetical to caste, gender and ethnic divisions, actually draw strength from these. In the process, these divisions only get perpetuated rather than being challenged.

“The degree to which one’s caste determines their occupation in India is remarkable,” she said. “We have an economy heavily dependent on differences.”

Ghosh concluded her lecture by emphasising the need of a broad-based strategy of development and pointed out that the youth of the society are less tolerant of prevailing inequalities. Hence, there exist possibilities of positive change. “We’ll have to learn to celebrate otherness without hierarchy.”

Maldives seeks academic tie-ups

The Republic of Maldives has sought assistance from Jamia Millia Islamia for the establishment of an Islamic University in their country. A delegation led by Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed, Minister of Islamic Affairs of the Republic of Maldives, visited Jamia Millia Islamia on April 16 to explore possibilities of academic collaborations and partnerships. It sought Jamia’s assistance in developing a culture of academic publication in Maldives.

Highlighting Maldives’ successful assimilation of western education into Islam, the minister underscored the need to promote Islam that was liberal, tolerant and integrated varied influences.

He observed that Maldives was immensely successful in making women equal stakeholders in affairs of the country as was evident from the

assumption of high offices by them in different walks of life. Earlier, officiating Vice-Chancellor Prof SM Sajid welcomed the delegation and talked of the historical ties between India and Maldives. He assured the visiting delegation of all possible assistance from Jamia. 📍



Mapping Indian Ocean solidarity at Jamia

MIRAAS 2014

Offering platform for creative interface

The Cultural Committee, JMI, organised the three-day national inter-university cultural festival on February 24-26. Nearly 30 universities and colleges from across the country, including Delhi University, IIT-Roorkee, AMU and Amity University participated.

The various events organised during the gala were the third national tri-lingual debate (in Urdu, Hindi and English), Indian music vocal (group and solo), western music vocal (group and solo), folk dance competition, on-the-spot creative writing competition (in Urdu, Hindi & English), poetry composition-cum-recitation, *Baitbaazi* (in Urdu), mimicry, business ideas competition, management guru (case study competition) and creativity and innovation competition.



- 1. Miley sur mera tumhara:** Participants performing during the group singing competition
- 2. Folklore:** Jamia students during folk dance competition
- 3. Wah wah kya baat hai:** Two teams trying to outwit each other at Baitbaazi competition
- 4. Calling the shots:** The moving spirit behind MIRAAS, Prof Tasneem Meenai, Dean, Students Welfare, speaking at the valedictory function
- 5. Patronising creativity:** Chief guest of the inaugural function, Shanta Serbjeet Singh, vice chairperson, Sangeet Natak Akademi New Delhi, addressing the audience
- 6. Well done:** Amina Jung, wife of Delhi L-G Najeed Jung, felicitating the winners of various competitions at the valedictory function



Entering top echelons


31 Jamia students crack Civil Services (Main) Examination 2013

As many as 31 students who were coached at Jamia's Residential Coaching Academy have cracked the Civil Services (Main) Examination 2013 in December last year. They were now appearing in the interviews.

The Academy also prepared the students for the final round by organising mock interviews.

The Residential Coaching Academy of Jamia,

funded by the University Grants Commission (UGC), offers free coaching and boarding facilities to all-India students belonging to SC, ST and minorities categories and women.

The candidates are selected on the basis of a written test followed by individual interviews. The centre offers guidance in various optional and compulsory subjects. 

Off to Queen's land


Garvita Khybri and Danish Ahmad, students of Convergent Journalism at AJK MCRC, have been selected for "The Beyond Conflict Entrepreneurship and Leadership Programme" — a summer school at Queens University, Belfast.

It is a week-long intensive programme at Queens University. The programme commences on June 27 and will go till July 6.

Khybri and Ahmad were shortlisted after a rigorous screening process. The students were asked to propose an idea that would help the community to develop economically, socially and environmentally. Out of several applications and many rounds of interviews, Ahmad's and Khybri's ideas were selected.

Danish Ahmad proposes to modernise a madarsa in Bihar.

Garvita Khybri, on the other hand, proposes to set up a venture that would provide vocational training to the intellectually disabled.

The programme is designed to promote entrepreneurship, leadership and community engagement among the participating students. 

Bright ideas:
Garvita Khybri
and Danish
Ahmed



Painting the town red

WASILA PARVEZ, a student of BArch IInd year, won first prize in two competitions – graffiti making and gully cricket – held during the architecture fest "Fenestration" organised by the Faculty of Architecture, JMI on February 21-23. The three-day peppy event – full of fun frolic and bits of learning – had several competitions like Dress Up, *Ferrari ki Sawari* (graffiti making), Grab A Pen (essay writing), slow cycle racing and Gully Cricket.



Serious deliberations

THE FIRST Jamia National Parliamentary Debate, 2014, held on March 21-23, was one of the major events organised by students of the Literary and Debating Society of the Faculty of Law.

The topics — announced only at the last minute — covered contemporary political, legal, social and cultural issues. Justice Badar Durrez Ahmad, former Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, delivered the inaugural address.



Forms of beauty

With the burgeoning art market in India, the popularity of fine arts courses at Jamia is growing by the day. But it needs more than just an inclination towards the arts to accomplish this course



The boy briefly looks up to greet us before he goes back to intently chiselling a shape out of a log of wood. In another hall, young men and women are busy giving a human shape to clay. Outside, on the lawns, a nude feminine bust in Plaster of Paris (POP) sits half reclined on a pedestal that sort of calibrates the visitor's sensibilities in this realm of art.

"Nudity is studied as an art form in most art colleges. We don't have it here in Jamia though," Prof Ghazanfar Zaidi, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, says with a smile as if reading our thoughts.

"We have created an environment where people are developing a sense of appreciation of art," he says.

The Faculty of Fine Arts is one of the finest in the country. Renowned names in the world of art like A Ramachandran Nair, Paramjit Singh, Jatin Das, N.K. Dixit, M.N. Tyagi, Mohammed Yasin, Raza Zaidi, Obaidul Haq, Gogi Saroj Pal and Arpita Singh have adorned the faculty list at one point.

Starting out with a single teacher and four students in 1951 as a course under the Faculty of Education, it is now a full-fledged faculty with six departments, more than 25 teachers and about 450

seats. “The first one year diploma course that was started by this department’s founder, the late Abul Kalam, was aimed at training teachers for art education in schools. Though we have many more courses now, a course training art teachers still remains our USP,” says Prof Zaidi.

Abul Kalam was a disciple of the legendary Nand Lal Bose and was spotted by Dr Zakir Husain during a visit to Shanti Niketan.

A few years down the line, the one-year diploma was turned into a two-year course titled ‘Diploma in Teaching of Art and Craft’. In 1978, the Department of Fine Art & Art Education was established and a three-year BA (H) course in Art Education was started.

Two years later, when A Ramachandran took over as the HoD, he envisaged to broaden the horizon of art education at Jamia and to start some new courses to produce artists rather than just art teachers.

As a result, three new BFA courses of four years duration each came into being namely Applied Art, Painting and Sculpture. In 2007, the department was converted into a full-fledged faculty with six departments under it.

The Faculty offers courses in Painting, Sculpture, Art Education, Applied Art, Art History & Art Appreciation and Graphic Arts. The last two courses are postgraduate ones.

The Faculty’s popularity among potential students can be gauged from the huge number of applications for admission to various courses.

The challenge then is to find the right talent. “Fine Art is about immense hard work, dedication and perseverance. The mere desire to become an artist doesn’t help,” says Prof Zaidi, as he points towards a group of students busy in different laborious chores at the Department of Sculpture. To carve an aesthetically appealing form out of a stone or a log of wood requires perseverance and hardwork.

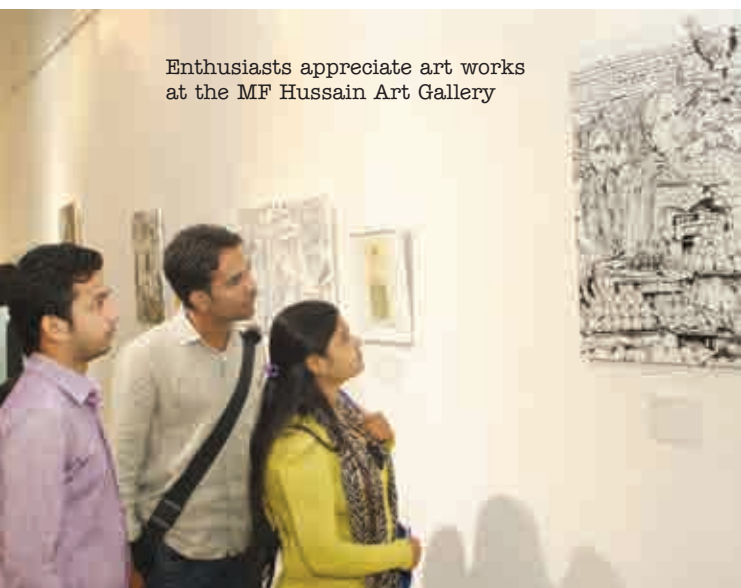


(Far left) Students busy making portrait of a model; (above) a sculpture in POP at the Faculty lawns

“And, of course, you need that finesse to express your feelings on the canvass,” he draws our attention towards a huge painting by a student. “The use of colours, lines, forms, symmetry, asymmetry, rhythm etc define a painting or any other piece of art,” he tells us.

Unlike other courses where examination’s duration is just a few hours, a test in art often spans over days. For example, the test of making a clay model of a subject that should look exactly like him/her lasts for five days. The alumni are doing well for themselves, informs Prof Zaidi. Some of them are art directors at leading advertising agencies. Those who are doing freelancing are also earning handsome amounts.

Among the younger lot, Manisha Gera Baswani, Sabia, Bula Bhattacharya, Shahid Javed, Abijeet and others have made a name for themselves. 📍

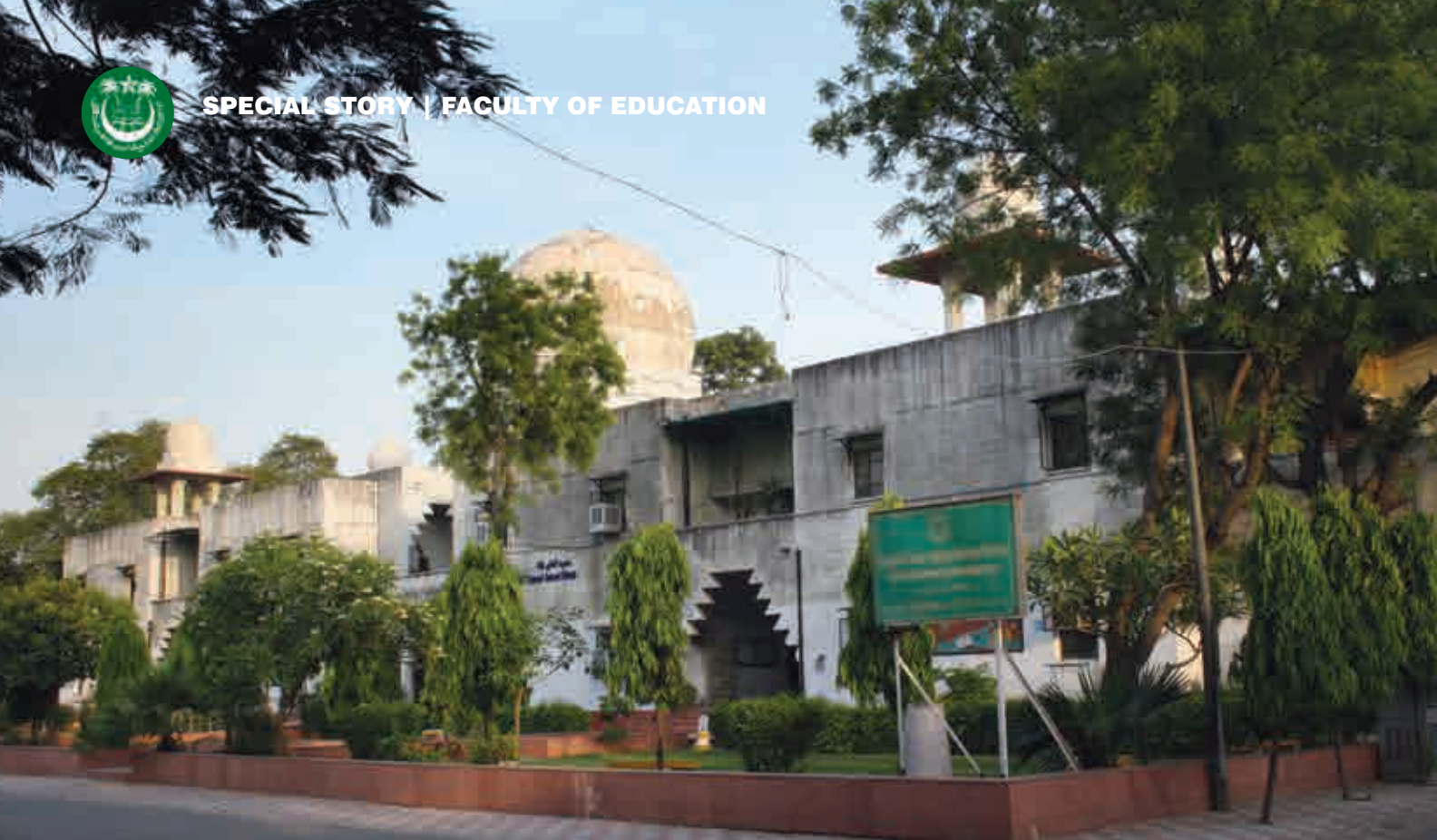


Enthusiasts appreciate art works at the MF Hussain Art Gallery

The show goes on

THE FACULTY of Fine Arts also boasts of a state-of-the-art gallery named after famous artist MF Hussain. Hussain used to be a regular visitor at the Faculty till late 1980s.

The gallery has a rich collection of some of the original works of artists like MF Hussain, Paramjit Singh and FN Souza. It has become a favourite destination for art exhibitions.



Where teachers are born: The building of Faculty of Education

75 years of excellence

The Faculty of Education, that has been in the service of the nation since 1938, celebrates its platinum jubilee this year

Three quarters of a century is quite some time. If an institution manages to survive, and also bloom, for this long a period, it certainly calls for celebrations. The Faculty of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia, recently celebrated its platinum jubilee.

A small school that was started for training teachers in craft-based education 75 years back, has bloomed into a full-fledged Faculty with various departments under it – offering specialisation in education up to the doctoral level.

Teachers' Training Institute was established in 1938 under the inspiring leadership of Dr Zakir Husain for the purpose of training teachers for basic schools. Later, it was renamed as Teachers' College.

Though the journey has been smooth, it required vision and farsightedness of several people for a small college to grow into a Faculty. At the forefront are the names of Dr Saeed Ansari and Dr Salamatullah, who served as the principals of the Teachers' College in succession. With the introduc-

tion of Faculty structure in Jamia Millia Islamia in 1980, the erstwhile Teachers' College was renamed as Faculty of Education.

At present, it has two departments – Department of Educational Studies, and Department of Teacher Training and Non-Formal Education (Institute of Advanced Studies in Education).

The Faculty runs 12 different programmes to prepare professional teachers and teacher educators and also offers MPhil and doctoral programme in education.

As is fitting for an institution of high repute and academic excellence, celebration meant not just gloating over the past achievements, but brainstorming for achieving higher excellence in future.

The highlights of the celebrations were:

- International Education Conference 2014
 - Institution and release of Jamia Journal of Education – an international biannual publication
 - Institution of Saeed Ansari Memorial Lecture
- The International Education Conference, con-



Jamia's different DNA: Prof Shyam B Menon, Vice Chancellor, Ambedkar University, addressing the gathering; (right) Dignitaries releasing the Jamia Journal of Education

vened in collaboration with UNESCO and partially funded by ICSSR, New Delhi, on March 10-11, was dedicated to the theme of “Education As a Right Across the Levels: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies”.

There was a joint forum wherein UNESCO and Faculty of Education deliberated on the central theme. “The mission of the Conference was to guide the provision of education for all across all levels (primary, secondary and higher education including teacher education) so that they are able to pursue knowledge and skills, manifest excellence in performance, defend democratic ideals irrespective of gender, religion, caste, creed, economic status or any other discriminatory characteristic,” informs Prof Ahrar Husain, Dean, Faculty of Education.

The conference had about 165 presentations of which 147 were oral, two virtual and 16 poster presentations. Apart from the inaugural and valedictory sessions, there were 20 other sessions.

In the inaugural function, Prof Ved Prakash, Chairperson, UGC; Prof SM Sajid, officiating VC, JMI; Prof Shyam B Menon, VC, Ambedkar University Delhi; and Alisher Umarov, Chief of Education, UNESCO Delhi, shared their views and visions on education with the audience.

Earlier, Prof Ahrar Husain welcomed and introduced the guests and participants. The enlightening words by the speakers of the inaugural session set the tone for deliberations.

In the extraordinary league

IN THE COURSE OF its 75 years journey, Jamia Teachers' Training Institute has achieved several milestones.

The Department of Teacher Training and Non-Formal Education of Jamia was the first institution in the country to have been upgraded to Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE) under the new education scheme in 1988. There are very few IASEs in India.

The institute introduced several innovations in the course. “Sociology as part of teachers' training curricula was introduced by Jamia in the 1970s. It is now among the three cognate fields of education,” says Prof Shoeb Abdullah, HoD, IASE.

The second innovation was the comprehensive and continuous evaluation of the pupils. The Central Board of Secondary Education recently introduced the concept in its schools. “We have this system in place since the 1960s. When I studied here, the system was in place,” maintains Prof Abdullah.

“It's important for a student here to be as active in extra-curricular activities and crafts as in theory. In this way we are way ahead of others,” says this alumnus with a degree of pride.



Prof Ved Prakash stressed on having an educational system where everyone could learn and achieve higher learning. He emphasised that teacher education needs to be revamped. For this, he said, there was a need to translate pedagogical experiences and ideas into concrete action.

Prof SM Sajid suggested that for the present social context there was a need to revisit the objectives, strategies and interventions in education. He highlighted the affirmative role Jamia is playing as a minority institution in providing education to students from disadvantaged background as well as to first generation learners.

He proposed that there has to be a shift in focus in education from mere skill acquisition and employability to nurturing inquisitive minds.

Prof Menon, stressing on Jamia's genesis as a product of national movement, advocated that it should be forerunner in making sense of complexity of Indian society and catering to its specific characteristics.

He affirmed that higher education should bring quality to provision of education for masses and ensure inclusive and organic growth of education system. Dr. Umarov talked about UNESCO's contribution to the post-2015 education agenda emphasising on the goal of 'education for all'.

More than 350 participants from about 22 countries attended the conference.

For the Faculty of Education it's not just 75 years of existence — it's 75 years of excellence and innovation. 🕒



Bracing for Change: Prof Santosh Panda

In the footsteps of late Saeed Ansari

PROFESSOR SANTOSH PANDA, Chairman, National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), delivered the first Saeed Memorial Lecture on "Teacher Education Under Transformation – Imperatives for Collective Action" on March 12 on the occasion of platinum jubilee celebrations of the Faculty of Education.

Prof Panda appreciated the initiative taken by the Faculty of Education to institute the memorial lecture to pay tribute to late Saeed Ansari — the founder Principal of the institute formerly known as 'Ustadon Ka Madrasa'.

He also acknowledged the role of Saeed Ansari to implement the scheme of 'bunyadi taleem' (basic education).

Prof Panda felt that one-year duration of BED course was inadequate and proposed to expand it into two-year programme. Seeking academic rigour, he advocated launching a four-year BED integrated programme.

He reiterated that the present teacher education system needed to be revisited in order to effect necessary changes wherever required.



Prof Ved Prakash, Chairman, UGC, addressing the audience at the inaugural session of the Conference



Through Hungarian prism

Rozsa Hajnoczy, a Hungarian woman, visited Jamia in 1931 with her husband Gyula Germanus. She had some fond memories of the place

Jamia Millia Islamia is renowned not only in India, a lot of foreigners — especially Germans — hold the university in high esteem. Interestingly, German universities recognised Jamia's degrees long before Indian government recognised them (in 1956).

It does not end here. In 1994, a visiting professor from Jamia to Bamberg University, Germany, Prof Abdul Bismillah was treated with overwhelming respect and was asked to speak only about Jamia Millia Islamia and its history — instead of on contemporary Hindi-Urdu fiction, his area of expertise.

It was during this visit that an Italian scholar, William Radice, told Prof Bismillah about an old book he had edited that had a mention of Jamia.

The book, originally written in Hungarian, was titled *Bengali Tuz* (Fire of Bengal). The author of this book was Rozsa Hajnoczy, wife of renowned Islamic scholar professor Gyula Germanus. Prof Gyula taught Islamic philosophy at Shantiniketan.

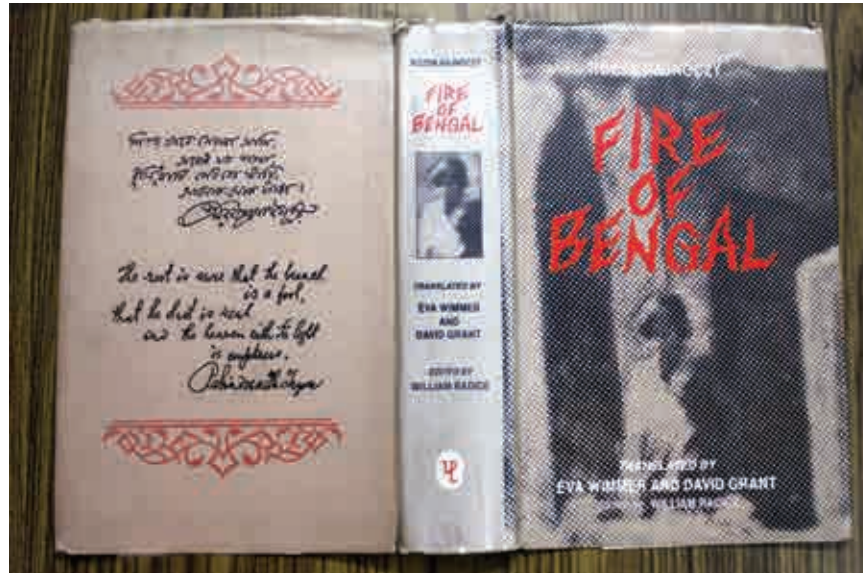
Rozsa lived with her husband in India between 1929 and 1932 and visited Jamia in March 1931. She had maintained a diary of her days in India and it was later posthumously published as a book in 1944 from Budapest. The book sold like hot cakes. Two impressions went off the shelves within a year.

The English translation, done by Eva Wimmer and David Grant, and edited by professor William Radice, came out in 1993 from University Press, Dhaka.

Radice could not find any publishers in India and UK because the author had been critical of Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi, and the publishers in the UK feared the book's publication might sour their diplomatic relations with India.

An extract from the book where Rozsa speaks of Jamia: "In the afternoon, we went to the Mo-

Rozsa Hajnoczy with her husband Gyula Germanus on a ship



The English translation of the book edited by Prof William Radice, came out in 1993 from University Press, Dhaka

ammedan university (Jamia). Gyula's pupils Ansari (Saeed Ansari) and Omar, the Arab from Najd had begged us to be sure and pay them a call and, as we had our letters forwarded to their address, we made haste to collect them from their hands...After a half hour drive we reached the bare, empty Karabagh. (Karol Bagh, where Jamia was housed then)."

Then she goes on: "There we were, in the office of the secretary of the Mohammedan university in Delhi...Not long afterwards the Dean, Dr Zahir Hussein (Dr Zakir Husain) arrived with Gyula's ex-pupil Ansari and they showed us around the university, including not only the lecture theatres, Gyula was greeted like an old friend by both staff and students, since it was less than a year ago that he lived and lectured here."

At Dr Zakir Husain's house Rozsa had some delicious cakes. "Dr Zahir's (Zakir Husain's) wife had cakes and sweets brought in. Clearly, her skills in cooking hadn't come of books either. Everything we tasted was delicious and never have I eaten such mouth-watering cakes anywhere also in India." 🍪

(All inputs provided by Abdul Bismillah, Professor, Department of Hindi, JMI. Abdul Bismillah is a reputed fiction writer).



Masterly brushstrokes

Painter Paramjit Singh on how Jamia charmed him and he thought he would never leave the place



Paramjit Singh at work at his studio-cum-residence in Nizamuddin East, New Delhi.

His earliest memory of Jamia is that of a “beautiful, domed building amidst the wilderness in Okhla. The year was 1954 and Paramjit Singh had gone to Okhla with his batch mates at Delhi Polytechnic for a picnic. Little did he know that he would get associated with Jamia for the best part of his life.

When he joined Jamia’s Teachers’ Training College, his mandate was to train potential teachers in art activity for primary children. “Then I was given to teach leather craft of which I knew nothing and, in fact, learnt it from the students who were already doing it,” says the artist with a smile.


“I introduced oil painting in our department,” says Singh whose paintings have come under the hammer

at several important art auctions in India and abroad including at Christie’s in London.

He also recalls how a gate for the famous Taleemi Mela at Jamia in 1964 designed by him with tit-bits borrowed from other departments became an object of attraction and people as far away as from Old Delhi would come to see it. “The budget sanctioned for the whole decoration was Rs 400,” he smiles.

The bonding with the people and the place at Jamia grew on Paramjit and, in the 1970s, he declined an offer for the principalship of Chandigarh School of Art made by then Chandigarh Commissioner MS Randhawa. “Jamia *me mera jee lag gaya tha* and I didn’t want to go though it was a very lucrative offer,” he fondly recalls. He turned down many other offers.

He did not abandon this association even when he was selling paintings for amounts many times his salary at Jamia.

Later, A Ramachandran Nair joined the Department of Fine Arts as a lecturer and the two men envisaged to take the department to new heights. He is happy that the Faculty has more resources at its disposal now and that it is expanding. 

The bonding with the people and the place grew on Paramjit and he declined an offer for the principalship of Chandigarh School of Art



Ensuring safety for NE community

Prof Sanjoy Hazarika has been quite vocal about issues facing the Indians from the North-East

Prof Sanjoy Hazarika, Director, Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia has been appointed by Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Najeeb Jung, as a member of the Committee set up to ensure the safety of the North-East community living in Delhi. The Committee is headed by Delhi's Home Secretary and includes a number of representatives from legal fraternity, professional groups and civil society. The Committee's terms of reference include creating institutional mechanisms to enhance the safety and security of people from the North-East and to promptly redress grievances. Jamia, on its part, has given thumbs up to all his initiatives on and off the campus. **J**



Cosmological explorations

Prof M Sami has been actively working in the field of modern cosmology. His major contribution to cosmology include work on some of the hot topics like Brane worlds, D-Brane cosmology, cosmological dynamics of scalar field and modified theories of gravity.

In recognition of his contribution to cosmology, he was elected Fellow of Indian Academy of Science and Fellow of National Academy of Science in 2009.

Prof M Sami has had opportunity to work at leading research/academic institutions in India and abroad including CERN Geneva; ICTP, Trieste (Italy); University of Tokyo, Tokyo University of Science, University of Nagoya, Moscow State University; People's Friendship University,

Moscow; and Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune.

He has undertaken activities and initiated measures in JMI for the last decade and a half

to promote an interest in modern cosmology. In 2001, Prof Sami wrote a famous paper with V Sahni from IUCAA on Brane world inflation. **J**



Prof M Sami

Grant for global research

Dr Sigamani P, Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work, JMI, has been awarded a major global research grant by the University of Minnesota, USA, for the year 2014.

He is part of a grant team that has been awarded 'Global Spotlight International Research Major Grant Award' through the Global Programme and Strategy Alliance, University of Minnesota. The grant is awarded in order to promote major international research and creative activity with global visibility. **J**



Sigamani P

In service of Urdu literature

VICE-PRESIDENT HAMID ANSARI

released a monograph on late professor Syed Mohammad Hasnain on April 22 at his residence written by professor Shahzad Anjum of Department of Urdu, JMI. The monograph has been published by Sahitya Akademi.

On this occasion, the Vice-President highlighted the contribution of Prof Syed Mohammad Hasnain to Urdu literature and its importance.

Residential Coaching Academy



The Residential Coaching Academy is the latest institutional facility added in the campus of Jamia Millia Islamia. The building is designed by Prof S.M. Akhtar and the team of architects at the Faculty of Architecture & Ekistics. The architecture of the building is such that it imparts an identity to the complex with its distinct glass and raised podium entrance. It is designed in a circular profile around a central green lawn to act as informal interaction space. The building is equipped with the state-of-art lecture halls, library, audio-visual hall, computer centre and faculty rooms. The entire Coaching Academy campus is planned as a barrier-free environment with aspects of energy efficiency in the architecture. The total builtup area of the Academic block is about 2500 sqm while that of hostel buildings is around 3400 sqm.



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