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Press Release

## JMI's Department of Social Work celebrates Seher: The Dawn of Inclusion

The Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) adorned the spirit of inclusion through its annual sports and cultural festival, Seher. Organized on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the theme of the festival, 'Seher: The Dawn of Inclusion' was conceived by the students and symbolized a new beginning in fostering unity, collaboration, and embracing diversity. Just as dawn brings light and hope, the event aimed to inspire a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and appreciated. Every aspect of the fest was thoughtfully designed to reflect the commitment to inclusion.

The Hand-Painted Banner of Inclusion was a powerful symbol of unity and teamwork. Each individual involved in the program left their handprint on the banner, creating a colorful mosaic of hands. This artistic choice illustrated how every person's unique contribution was essential to making the event a success. The diversity in handprints symbolized the different backgrounds, ideas, and strengths each person brought to the fest, visually reinforcing the theme of inclusion. By uniting all these handprints into one vibrant display, the department celebrated the collective effort and collaboration.

The entrance of the department was adorned with the 'Arc of Inclusion', resembling a radiant sun. This "sun" had rays reaching out in all directions, representing the dawn of inclusion. Each ray signified the unique ideas, perspectives, and energy that every individual brought to the event. The rays connected to form a collective glow, illustrating how diversity and unity combined bring light to the world, just like the first rays of dawn.

The Wall of Inclusion was set up as part of the décor and theme. This wall took the form of a tree, symbolizing growth and strength, with its branches and fruits embodying the ideas, feedback, and thoughts of those who attended the fest. Attendees were encouraged to write their ideas on "fruits" that adorned the tree, showing how inclusion and positivity allow the department to flourish, much like a tree nurtured by sunlight. This participatory setup invited everyone to leave their mark and know that their ideas could shape the future.

The Diversity Walk was a vivid representation of cultural inclusion, as people walked together dressed in traditional attire from different regions and backgrounds. This walk showcased the wide range of cultures and traditions present within our community, celebrating our differences while bringing everyone together in one space.

Face Painting Collaboration invited volunteers from different departments across JMI symbolizing collaboration and unity and celebration of diverse talents. This cross-departmental teamwork brought in fresh perspectives and creativity, with each volunteer contributing their own style and ideas to the designs.

'Everyone deserves a voice' was the thought behind the Open Mic Event that provided a platform for talents of all kinds, embracing the idea that everyone deserves a voice. Participants from varied backgrounds shared their music, poetry, and stories, embodying the commitment to inclusion. By giving everyone a space to perform, regardless of their background or level of experience, the department showcased its belief that every talent is valuable and worth celebrating.

The sports events (Cricket, Badminton, Volleyball, Football) were held in the M.A.K. Pataudi Stadium where students across all courses of the Department of Social Work participated, enjoyed and cheered each other.

The annual student festival was, in essence, a heartfelt celebration of diversity, unity, and positivity. The Department of Social Work demonstrated that inclusion is not just a concept but a practice that radiates hope and positivity, much like the first light of dawn. The event was organized by the Subject Association of Department of Social Work with Dr. Hem Borker, Student Advisor, anchoring the process and turning the entire ambience into one of joy and gleam. All the faculty members of the department supported and participated in the two day event that imbued immense energy in the students. Students had painstakingly decorated the entire department ensuring that everything was handcrafted.

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