

March 24, 2025

Press Release

JMI's Department of Persian celebrates Nauroz Festival

New Delhi: The Department of Persian, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) celebrated Nauroz festival on March 24, 2025 in the Iranology Hall of the Department. The program was attended by dignitaries from Iran & Tajikistan embassies and visiting faculty of Afghanistan in India. Professor Mazhar Asif, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JMI, graced the occasion with his auspicious presence.

The program began with recitation of the holy Quran by PG student Mr. Sohail Ahmad. Prof. Kaleem Asghar, Head, Dept. Of Persian, delivered a welcome address where he highlighted the significance of the Nauroz festival from time immemorial saying that even the Mughal kings celebrated the festival with much fanfare.

Dr. Anwar Khairee, an Afghan national and visiting faculty at JNU, threw light on the significance of Nauroz festival in Afghanistan. He said that the people of Afghanistan construe Nauroz as the beginning of a new chapter of life with renewed vigour.

Prof. Iqtedar Mohd. Khan, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Languages, in his address congratulated the Department of Persian, JMI, for organizing such an important program. He said that such programs have deep cultural significance and should be celebrated each year to make our future generations aware of our cultural heritage.

Dr. Farid Uddin Farid Asr, Cultural Counsellor of the Culture House of the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Delhi, talked at length about the antiquity of Nauroz Festival and referred to its traces in ancient Iranian literature. He said that Nauroz provides for the unity of people across the globe.

Mr. Qahrman Suleimani, Director, Persian Research Institute, Culture House of the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Delhi, said that the Nauroz festival has its roots in ancient Iranian literature and culture. He discussed the cultural aspect of Nauroz celebration and termed it as the festival of togetherness.

H.E. Mr. Lukmon Bobokalonzada, the Tajik Ambassador to India, declared Nauroz festival as the festival of peace and prosperity. He said that India and Central Asia share a lot in common and festivals like Nauroz bring the two nations closer.

Prof. Mazhar Asif, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JMI, presided over the program. In his presidential remark he urged that Nauroz gives an opportunity to us to shed all our negative thoughts and start life afresh each year. Drawing parallel with Holika Dahan and Jashne Chahar Shanba e Suri he said like all the evil spirits get burned in Holika Dahan similarly Nauroz festival provides us to throw away all our isms into fire. He congratulated the Dept. of Persian for celebrating Nauroz in its true sense.

The program concluded with the inauguration of *Sufra-e Haft Seen* by the dignitaries of Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The *Sufra-e Haft Seen* was arranged by the PhD students of the Department. Ms. Fatima Syed Madni, PhD scholar of the Dept. of Persian, JMI who compered the function also described the importance of each item put on display on *Sufra-e Haft Seen* and threw light on their symbolic meaning.

The program ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Afzal Zaidi, a PhD scholar of the Department of Persian, JMI.

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