

# JAUHAR

Volume 03 | Issue 04 | June-August 2013

## BIO-BONANZA

Scientists at various Departments and Centres of Jamia are doing research in cancer-cure, HIV/AIDS, proteins and other areas crucial to life, aided by state-of-the-art infrastructure

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● 9 Faculties ● 37 Departments ● 27 Centres of Excellence and Research ● 231 Courses ● 642 Faculty Members  
● Over 15,000 Undergraduate, Post-Graduate and Diploma/Certificate Students

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Maulana Mohamed Ali 'Jauhar'  
Founder, Jamia Millia Islamia

## From the Officiating Vice-Chancellor

When British High Commissioner Sir James David Bevan visited Jamia Millia Islamia on August 22 to speak on the theme 'Reasons to be Cheerful: Why Now is the Best Time to be Young', I noted that, at least for the Jamia fraternity, there is an additional reason to be happy: the University is inching closer to the significant milestone of completing 100 years in 2020.

In the last 93 years, the University, with its unique nationalistic and progressive ethos, has selflessly served the country by bringing into the ambit of formal education many students from the deprived sections of society. Students who are first generation learners are seeking to change their destiny and thereby the destiny of their families and the society by enrolling at the University in large numbers. And Jamia Millia Islamia has not failed these first-generation learners. Our teachers have educated and inspired generations of students, making them into fine, confident citizens of this country. The teachers at Jamia have a special role to play in the sphere of higher education in the country, and they are aware of this responsibility, and have a fair degree of self-accountability.

At the same time, education in the 21st Century requires the University to keep pace with global changes. The education that we impart has to be relevant for our graduates to be of value to the country and the world. This requires our teachers to think innovatively. While many of our faculty and scholars, cutting across streams, are engaged in extensive research, it is time to think of developing a sharper focus so that a distinct and substantial contribution can be made to the niche areas over the years.

There is also need for continuous self-reflection on the work that we are doing as also the feedback from students and peers to assess our work. This would help us achieve excellence in teaching and research in the years to come.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Prof SM Sajid  
Officiating Vice-Chancellor

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# Life under lens

Life science researchers at Jamia ponder over the mysteries of life and look for cures to diseases like cancer and HIV/AIDS, aided by state-of-the-art infrastructure

**W**ork on major advances in human and plant health is happening in the research labs of Jamia, where scientists with super-specialisations from across the world are engrossed in path-breaking research work, publishing their findings, guiding PhD scholars and training the next crop of scientists, now studying in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Aiding this research is an equally well-developed infrastructure, endowed upon the various Departments and Centres of the University by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), Council for Scientific and Industrial Training (CSIR), All India

Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, University Grants Commission (UGC), and other frontline organisations of the country.

And now, these life scientists have got a new address. The Srinivasa Ramanujan Block, inaugurated by Union Minister for Human Resource Development MM Pallam Raju on September 5, houses the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Basic Sciences and the Departments of Biosciences and Biotechnology in a swank six-storey building, while the Centre for Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Sciences will get its new building infrastruc-

ture soon. We bring to you the research and teaching paraphernalia at these Centres and Departments in this issue.

## CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN BASIC SCIENCES

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Basic Sciences (CIRBSc) was established in 2006, and the name makes the objective very clear. In order to achieve its goal, the Centre has scientists from Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Computer Science along with Life Sciences as faculty members. The major thrust of the Centre is cutting-edge research, as evident by the amount of research grant – ₹7 crore – mobilised by the faculty members from various Government funding agencies. The Centre has 56 doctoral students and 18 MPhil students. The faculty of the Centre authored more than 140 research publications in the last five years.

### Research in myriad areas is being carried out by experts from across the disciplines:

- Protein Folding and Structure Biology by Prof Faizan Ahmad, Dr Asimul Islam, Dr Md Imtaiyaz Hassan and Dr Rajan Patel. For proteins, the correct folding and a correct three-dimensional structure is essential to function. Several neurodegenerative and other diseases are believed to result from the accumulation of misfolded (incorrectly folded) proteins. The research in the Centre provides a powerful insight into the science of protein folding and its application in drug discovery.
- Biomathematics by Ravin S: He is working in the field of application of mathematical modelling methods and simulations to the structure and functions of living organisms. The research in this field focuses on mathematical modelling of drug delivery systems.
- Nanotechnology and Nanobiotechnology research by Prof SG Ansari: The Centre has set up facilities for research and development of Nano-bioelectronics. This rapidly progressing inter-disciplinary field combines Physics, Materials Science, Chemistry, Microelectronics, Computational Methods and Biotechnology. An important area of work is the use of combination of nano- and bio-materials for efficient radiant and non-radiant energy conversion.
- Application of Scanning Probe Microscopy to study biomaterials under Prof ZA Ansari: Here researchers are working on Scanning Probe Mi-

croscopy (SPM), which is a group of Microscopy techniques used to study the Surface Morphology, topological, structural and spectroscopic analyses at atomic and submolecular level.

- Medicinal Chemistry by Dr Fareeda Athar: This area of research entails designing, synthesising and developing pharmaceutical drugs. The Centre has developed facilities and methods for the synthesis of compounds such as terpenes, tri-

## The research in the Centre provides a powerful insight into the science of protein folding and its application in drug discovery.

azines, sulfonamides, nucleic bases, porphyrins, dioxazoles and other novel organic entities. The developed molecules are utilised as probes, or as therapeutics.

- Molecular Biology of Respiratory Syncytial Virus and Virology under Dr Shama Parveen and Dr SN Kazim: Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) causes lower respiratory tract infections. The Centre is setting up facilities for RSV culture in different mammalian cell lines. The research will help in vaccine development and drug designing. This research project is being carried out in collaboration with the Microbiology and Biophysics Departments of AIIMS.
- Toxicology/Molecular Reproduction under Dr SC Thakur: The Centre is studying the toxicity of various plant products and chemical compounds that affect spermatogenesis, oogenesis, and hormone levels in male and female reproductive system. Furthermore, various other factors affecting reproductive parameters such as different stress conditions, environmental pollutants, etc, are part of the investigations.
- Machine Learning Application in Bioinformatics under Dr Romana Ishrat: Various Bioinformatics problems and their trends and possible solutions can be obtained via machine learning technologies. The research interest primarily involves the application of various machine learning tools and programming languages in DNA sequence analysis, drug designing and molecular modelling.
- System Biology under Dr RK Brojen Singh: The

# The nerve centre



**The science of staying fit:** Researchers working on a treadmill at the Exercise Physiology and Fitness Lab

**ONLY THREE** batches of Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPT) and two batches of Master of Physiotherapy (MPT) Sports have graduated, but the Centre for Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Sciences, supported by the UGC under its Innovative Programme, is already a coveted destination for science students interested in this field. The Centre has also started a Master of Physiotherapy in Orthopedics. It has eight PhD scholars pursuing research work.

The Centre has three major research and developmental grants from UGC (₹45 lakh) and Central Council for Unani Medicine, Ministry of Health, (₹25 lakh). The Centre has research collaboration with Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, Delhi, for Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation, and Geriatric Medicine of AIIMS, for fall prevention in elderly persons.

Major projects of the Centre are: Effect of interferential therapy and temperature manipulation on

research pertains to deeper understanding about interactions between the components of biological systems, and how these interactions give rise to the function and behaviour of that system (for example, the enzymes and metabolites in a metabolic pathway).

## DEPARTMENT OF BIOSCIENCES

Established in 1985, the Department has a very strong research ethos, with its 14 full-time faculty members involved in active research and publica-

tion, besides teaching MSc and BSc students. The major thrust areas of research in the Department are Biochemical Kinetics, Cellular & Molecular Animal Physiology, Cyanobacterial & Algal-Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Human Cytology & Molecular Genetics, Microbial Genetics, Plant Physiology and Plant Virology, Biochemistry & Genetics, Protein Structure-Function, Protein Conformation and Diseases, Enzymology, Medical Biotechnology and Microbiology.

■ Prof Mohamad Aman Jairajpuri is the Principal sleep parameters in human subjects under Prof M Ejaz Hussain; therapeutics and prophylactic potential of herbal drugs in protection from chronic heart failure under Prof M Ejaz Hussain and Prof M Fahim; and MTP and PhD programme in Sport Physiotherapy under the UGC Innovative Programme, with Prof M Ejaz Hussain as its Coordinator.

The Centre is working in the area of sleep rehabilitation and strives to develop a pioneering sleep rehabilitation clinic. Through a UGC grant of ₹8 lakh, it has acquired a polysomnograph, which helps study a person's sleep overnight. This research can then be used to provide the required therapy in the form of exercises and other interventions, on which again the Centre is working.

Exercise Physiology and Fitness Lab is another focus area of the Centre. It has acquired a VO2 Max machine at a cost of ₹13 lakh from Australia to estimate the oxygen consumption of athletes, healthy individuals and people with diseases. It has also acquired an advanced treadmill having -3 to +30 grade elevations, which can be utilised to assess the VO2 Max even for elite athletes. Another important feature of this treadmill is its Google map compatibility. Depending upon the location you select, it provides you the highs and lows of that road right in the laboratory.

The Stride Analyser is another equipment the Centre has procured. It enables experts to study the force in your heels, the muscle movement, etc, through the imagery generated on the computer screen. This can be used to suggest corrective measures and increase speed. Besides this, the Centre has a well-equipped and functional physiotherapy clinic for physiotherapy treatment and advice.

tion, besides teaching MSc and BSc students. The major thrust areas of research in the Department are Biochemical Kinetics, Cellular & Molecular Animal Physiology, Cyanobacterial & Algal-Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Human Cytology & Molecular Genetics, Microbial Genetics, Plant Physiology and Plant Virology, Biochemistry & Genetics, Protein Structure-Function, Protein Conformation and Diseases, Enzymology, Medical Biotechnology and Microbiology.

■ Prof Mohamad Aman Jairajpuri is the Principal

Investigator at the Protein Conformation and Enzymology project. Recent work in the lab has focused on the antithrombotic, antiangiogenic and protein polymerization-based studies. The researchers use a large family of proteins named serpins (serine proteinase inhibitors) as models to understand the molecular basis of protein-based defects. Understanding the molecular basis of such defects is central to devising strategies for their cure. The lab will be reporting soon on a new modified form of antithrombin with antiangiogenic and anticancer properties.

- Dr M Moshhid Alam Rizvi is Scientist In-charge of the Genome Biology Lab. The main work of this lab falls in the area of Molecular Oncology and Therapeutics. The lab has worked on some new but crucial tumour suppressor genes (PTEN and PARKIN), which have a great potential to be developed as new biomarkers in the diagnosis of some important cancers. In the area of therapeutics, the major focus of this lab has been on natural products, including dietary plants for their therapeutic properties.
- Dr Nikhat Manzoor is In-charge of the Medical Mycology Lab, which is engaged in studies on antimicrobial drug discovery and development, drug resistance in infectious diseases, antifungal drug targets and antifungal potential of natural products. The lab is working on development of novel antifungal agents, providing a basis for future therapies.
- Prof Jawaid Khan of Molecular Virology Lab has long experience in plant virological research. His research interests are molecular characterisation of viruses, and development of their detection.
- Prof Arif Ali is In-Charge of the Gene Expression Lab. The main thrust of his lab is environment management at the cellular and molecular levels, in particular the assessment of India fresh water bodies.
- Prof Luqman Ahmad Khan and Prof Seemi Farhat Basir work in the area of Fungal Biochemistry and Enzymology. The lab is doing pioneering work in antifungal activity.
- Prof Tasneem Fatma is In-Charge of Cyanobacterial Biotechnology Lab. The main focus of the lab is studies of Cyanobacterial and Algal Metabolism and Environmental Biotechnology.
- Prof Qazi Mohd Rizwanul Haq heads the Microbiology Lab. Its main focus is on molecular characterisation, diagnostics and management of plant viruses and multi-drug resistance.



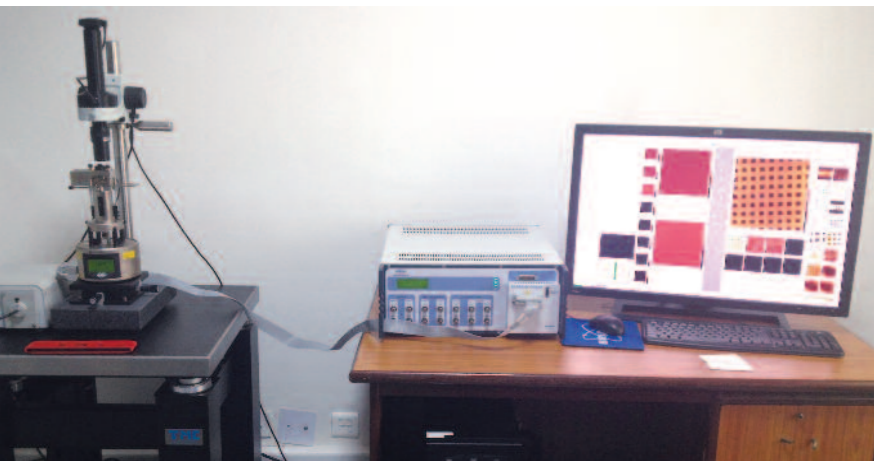
**Deciphering basic units of life:** (Above) A scientist at the Department of Biosciences in his lab; (page 4) plant life being probed at the Department of Biotechnology

- Dr Meryam Sardar, In-charge of the Enzyme Technology Lab, is working in the cutting edge area of Nanotechnology and Enzyme Immobilisation. She has been successful in using a series of natural extracts for making nano-particles that have found usage in antibacterial, anticancer and antifungal activities.
- Dr Mohamad Abid of the Medicinal Chemistry Lab is working in the area of organic synthesis and its effect on antiameobic, antifungal, anticoagulant and antibacterial activities.

The Department maintains plant tissue culture and has a green house facility, animal, algal, fungal and bacterial cell culture facilities, high speed internet, computational facility and a central instrumentation facility with trained staff.

The grants for research have come from funding agencies like ICMR, DST, DBT, AICTE, CSIR and UGC. Thus the Protein Conformation and Enzymology Lab is funded by grants from DBT, UGC and ICMR, Government of India.

The Genome Biology lab has a state-of-the-art tissue culture facility. This rare facility grows and maintains more than five lines of cancer as well as normal cells on a routine basis. The lab is well-equipped with instruments required to do research in Microbiology/Biochemistry and is in collaboration with Division of Mycology, Department of Microbiology, AIIMS; School of Life Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU); Department of Microbiology, Safdarjung Hospital; and Department of Botany and Department of Pharmaceutics,



**Unfolding patterns:** The infrastructure at a research lab at CIRBSc

Jamia Hamdard. The lab has received funding from ICMR and UGC recently.

### DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Department has seven permanent faculty members from varied research backgrounds, besides numerous others appointed on annual contracts. The Department has 30 PhD students, 60 PG and 90 UG students.

Faculty members have published more than 250 research articles and chapters in journals/books of international repute. The Department has established research collaborative understandings with Feinstein Institute for Medical Research (New York, USA), International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and University of Tuscia (Italy).

The Department has generated smart funding of more than ₹2 crore through extramural research projects in the recent past, besides regular grants from the University.

■ Dr Syed Akhtar Husain, Professor and Head of Department, heads the Human Genetics Lab. Prof Husain is working in field of Cancer Biology with special reference to breast cancer and human infertility. The lab is doing molecular analysis of different tumor suppressor genes in breast cancer patients, funded by ICMR & CSIR; and the molecular analysis of tumor suppressor genes and food habits of the esophageal cancer patients.

One of the thrust areas is to characterise different anticancerous compounds isolated from different medicinal plants.

■ Dr Mohammad Husain, a post-doctoral scholar

from the US, specialises in the area of HIV/AIDS and association between AIDS and kidney cell injury. He is also studying cell signaling of HIV infection and role of nef gene in HIV patients.

■ Dr Mohammad Irfan Qureshi, a Post-doc from Italy, works in the field of Plant Biotechnology and Molecular Biology and runs the Proteomics & Bioinformatics Lab. His research focuses on identification of novel proteins responsible for nitrogen fixation, efficient photosynthesis, plant defense and allergenicity by employing high throughput 2D Proteomics and Mass Spectrometry.

■ Dr Meetu Gupta, a Post-doc from Germany, is supervising the Plant Ecotoxicogenomics Lab. Her group is interested in studies on 'Plant-metal interactions' from molecules to the ecosystem. Her work involves interaction of arsenic and selenium with certain crop plants, metal-binding complexes, role of signaling molecules, toxicity reversal mechanisms

■ Dr Kapil Dev, Assistant Professor and a graduate from AIIMS and PhD from Jamia, is In-charge of the Medical Biotechnology Laboratory. He is working in the field of Medical Biotechnology and Biomaterials. He has collaborated in a project on Endemic Fluorosis with AIIMS, focusing on various hazards posed by fluoride to human health.

■ The Genes & Proteins Lab of Dr Sadaf Fatima (AMU Gold Medalist) is focusing on purification of proteins from plant sources and its characterisation. The proteins, thus purified, are of great significance to life.

■ Dr Abdur Rub, a Post-doc from the US, and recipient of the INSA Young Scientist Medal, supervises the Infection and Immunity Lab. Using advanced modes his lab is intercepting the two-way chat of pathogens and their hosts.

The Department of Biotechnology is quite young yet rich in terms of research facilities. Available facilities and equipment that are accelerating the research towards excellence include recombinant DNA technology facility, HIV research facility, gene amplification and DNA polymorphism, immunobiotech and blotting, cell and plant culture facility equipped with cell culture and plant growth chambers with regulated environment, high magnification microscopes, water ultra-purification system, deep-freezers, digital balances and pH meters, and centrifuges, besides full-fledged, fully-equipped UG and PG labs and computer labs. ↓

## Praise for Jamia's role

Union HRD Minister inaugurates two facilities at Jamia, commends the University for its modern ethos and quality education to the disadvantaged sections of society

Union Minister for Human Resource Development, MM Pallam Raju, visited Jamia Millia Islamia on the occasion of Teachers' Day on September 5. He inaugurated the Ramanujan Block, which houses the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Basic Sciences, the Departments of Biosciences and Biotechnology, and the new University Polytechnic building.

Speaking to the faculty and students on the occasion, he appreciated the University for providing modern and secular education amongst its students. "It is a matter of great pride to see how Jamia has responded to the educational needs of India's minorities, particularly Muslims, as indeed to so many underprivileged students." He said he was aware of the pressing need for a girls' polytechnic in the University, as also other pending projects like a 100-bed hospital for the Faculty of Dentistry and assured that the Government would look into these proposals speedily. He also asked the University to look for innovative ways for fund-raising.

On the occasion, Prof SM Sajid, Officiating Vice-Chancellor, highlighted the fact that the University



**New address:** HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju inaugurates the new University Polytechnic building

is playing a pivotal role in educating first-generation learners from very disadvantaged sections of the society, providing quality education to the underserved. He said this cause would be greatly served through an impetus by the Government. ↓

## World under one roof

The just-concluded admission season again testifies to the diverse and inclusive milieu of Jamia

Jamia has admitted 7,130 students in the admission season that has drawn to a close, including 2,349 girls. Of these, about 840 admissions were in the school segment. As per the data provided by the FTK Centre for Information Technology of the University, as of August 30, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have sent the largest number of students. Delhi has sent 3,064, UP has sent 1,911 and Bihar, 1,255. Haryana has sent 185 students and Jharkhand, 147 students.

But students from far-off states have also shown keenness. Kerala has sent 35 students, including 9 girl students. From Tamil Nadu, five students have secured admission this year. Madhya Pradesh has

sent 29 students, West Bengal 75 students and Jammu and Kashmir 139 students, including 39 girl students. From the North-east, Manipur has sent the highest number of students – 25, including 12 girls.

The number of girl students from other states eager to partake of an education experience at Jamia demonstrates the comfort level that girls feel here – as many as 453 girls from UP and 222 girls from Bihar have taken admission. From West Bengal, 21 girl students, and from Madhya Pradesh, 9 students have secured admission.

This year also sees a remarkable increase in admission to persons with disabilities – 221, as against 105 in the last academic year. ↓

## 'Best time to be young'

The British High Commissioner, Sir James Bevan, lists several reasons to be cheerful, in his pep talk to the students of Jamia Millia Islamia

I would suggest that being alive in 2013 is better than at any time in the past." Sir James David Bevan, British High Commissioner, expressed this belief while addressing the students and faculty of Jamia Millia Islamia on August 22. He was speaking on the topic, 'Reasons to

be cheerful: Why now is the best time to be young'. He presented a compelling case for his standpoint. "The first condition for a good life is good health. And in 2013 we humans are living longer than ever before," he said, and cited statistics from India to bring home the point. "We are richer than ever before... The percentage of world's people living in absolute poverty has dropped by more than half in my lifetime," he added

The world had become a better place for 50 per cent of its population, the women, he said. More people were educated, and explosion of information technology and a combination of knowledge and IT was driving more creative thinking.

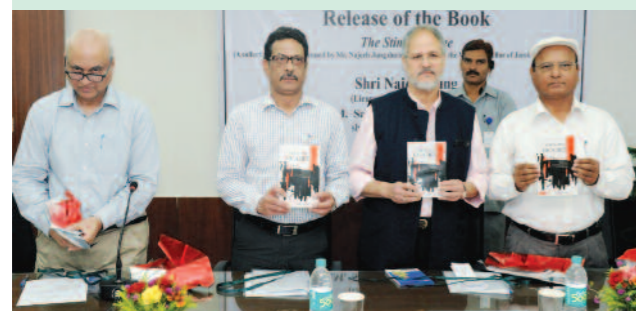
Living in the 21st century, he said, the youth had won the lottery of history, and Indian youth had also won the lottery of geography. "Why? Because India possesses advantages many other countries don't. If you want to do something really big, India has the money, the people and the resources to do it."

During the Q&A session, he faced a range of uncomfortable questions, including his visit to Gujarat to meet Chief Minister Narendra Modi. ⬇



**Reasons to smile:** Sir James Bevan reminds the youth of the lottery of history and geography they have won

## Delhi LG's book release in Jamia



**Power of the pen:** Delhi's LG Najeed Jung (Second from right) with Officiating VC SM Sajid (third from right)

**THE Sting of a Bee**, a collection of articles penned by Najeed Jung, Lt Governor of Delhi and former Vice-Chancellor of Jamia, was released in Jamia

on August 26. These articles appeared in national dailies while Jung was the VC of the University. These cover a range of issues, from the challenges facing the Muslims in India today, to governance problems, to the Arab Spring.

Using this opportunity to thank the faculty and administration of Jamia, Jung exhorted them to go beyond the call of duty and travel that extra mile so that the University can occupy a place in the frontlines. He expressed happiness that the infrastructure of the University has expanded and the quality of students is improving.

He informed the gathering that the master plan for Jamia, for which he has persevered, will be a reality soon.

## 'The ball, in your court'

Pak diplomat Sherry Rehman says her country is showing willingness to build bridges to India; exhorts India to move beyond its 'calcified response'

India is no longer seen as Pakistan's principal enemy. There is fundamental course correction at the public and state level. Democracy is a very powerful space in Pakistan and Pakistanis are able to imagine peace in South Asia now. There is multi-party consensus now that we need to move on. Pakistan wants to move beyond the old policy template.

This assertion was made by Sherry Rehman, former Pakistan Ambassador to the US and current Chairperson of the Jinnah Institute, Islamabad, at a talk given by her at the Pakistan Studies Programme in Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. The theme was 'Transition and Opportunity: Regional Peace and the Strategic Imagination'.

The claim came just a few days before Pakistani Army violated the ceasefire in Poonch, killing five Indian soldiers, belying Indian hopes that the new Pakistani dispensation has an upper hand over that country's army in its relations with India, and triggering widespread anger in India.

Listing a host of issues that both the countries face – poverty, hunger, environment degradation and terrorism – she called upon the two nations to face the challenges collectively. But she expressed dismay at a string of "conditionalities" that New Delhi brings to the table. Expressing confidence that



**Hard talk to soften relations:** Pak diplomat Sherry Rehman with Jamia's Officiating VC SM Sajid

there was a definite change in Pakistan's approach to India, she felt that there was not a corresponding change in Indian opinion.

Blaming New Delhi for 'calcified response', she said the question being asked in Pakistan was, 'Is New Delhi indifferent to peace in South Asia?' She said, "There has to be a policy will to move forward, and there is an emerging one in Pakistan." The ball, she said, was in India's court now. ⬇

## Jamia celebrates Independence Day

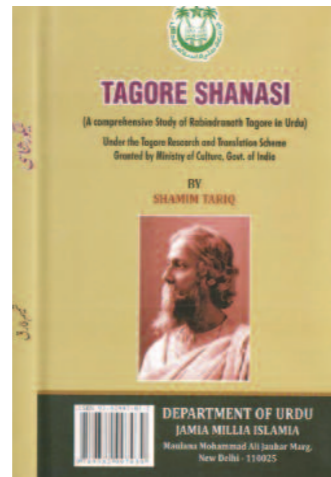
**The Tricolour occasion:** (Right) Prof SM Sajid, Officiating Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, celebrating the Independence Day with the students at Jamia Senior Secondary School Campus, where the flag hoisting took place. (Below) The young students of Jamia participate with full fervour in the festivities. The event ended with distribution of sweets.



# Comprehensive study on Tagore

The poet's poetry, music, art and philosophy explored in a Department of Urdu book

Jamia Millia Islamia's Department of Urdu has published *Tagore Shanasi*, a comprehensive study of Rabindranath Tagore in Urdu, under the Tagore Research and Translation Scheme funded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The book has been authored by a renowned critic and author Shamim Tarique and has been published by Maktaba Jamia Limited.



his character and personality, Tarique has thrown light on the creative journey of Tagore — his poetry, music, dramas, stories, novels and paintings.

Tarique has discussed at length Tagore's association with Santiniketan, his views on education and his role as a teacher.

He has also looked at important signposts such as his winning the Nobel Prize. He has also reflected on Tagore's thought and philosophy, his concept of nationalism, his poetic

vision and his final journey.

Ten thousand copies of the book have been published. As per the agreement with the Ministry of Culture, the books will be distributed free of cost among scholars and general readers. 📖

Spread over 15 sections, this 180-page book deals with different facets of Tagore and his works. Besides a description of Tagore's immediate family, birth, childhood, education, his interest in nature, his visits and journeys, marriage, household affairs,

# Talk on Indo-US relations

Photograph courtesy jamiajournal.com



**The US puzzle:** (L-R) Prof Chintamani Mahapatra, Manoj Joshi and Prof Badrul Islam of Jamia

The Department of Political Science of Jamia Millia Islamia organised a talk on 'Indo-US Relations: Perspectives and Challenges.' The speakers were Dr Manoj Joshi, Distinguished Fellow, Observe Research Foundation, Delhi; and Prof Chintamani Mahapatra, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Joshi highlighted the asymmetry between the two countries, stating that the power and influence of the US far outstrips that of India, which is a pop-

ulous, poor country of South Asia. This asymmetry, he said, will continue to pose a challenge to the relations between the two countries. He referred to another problem area for Indo-US relations – the very peculiar relations between the US and Pakistan, and cautioned India to be careful.

On a positive note, he pointed to the assistance that the US has provided to India on numerous fronts, including higher education, facilitating the green revolution and providing intellectual capital for our security projects.

Prof Mahapatra, on the other hand, highlighted the shifts in Indo-US relations in the last six decades. He alluded to the pro-Soviet tilt of New Delhi during the Cold War era, the nuclear sanctions that the US had once imposed on the country, to a stage now, wherein we are in a nuclear cooperation agreement with the US.

He said that in the near future, the factors that will shape these relations will be the need to balance the power of China, and the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan. 📖

# Extensive media 'coverage'

MCRC Director probes possibilities of collaborations and joint masters programmes

As a follow-up to the Memorandum of Understanding that the AJK Mass Communication and Research Centre (MCRC) of Jamia Millia Islamia had signed with the University of Westminster in April 2012 for collaboration in research, Obaid Siddiqui, Director of MCRC, paid a visit to Westminster in July 2013 with the objective of extending the area of cooperation between the two institutions beyond research. He held a number of meetings with heads of departments and senior faculty of Westminster to foster other media programmes, like joint Mas-

ter's Programme in Journalism and a Master's Programme in Photojournalism, conducting photography and digital media workshops and starting an 'Artist in Residence' programme. He also paid a visit to Goldsmith College of London University, which has a tie-up with Westminster. He discussed the possibility of collaborative research, faculty exchanges and joint master's degree programmes, among others.

Besides, he visited the University of Portsmouth, University of Dundee, University of Nottingham and University of Loughborough. 📖

# Story teller from NE

The Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, Jamia, under its Young Research Scholars Seminar Series, organised a session of reading by author Aruni Kashyap, who has written *The House with a Thousand Stories*.

Kashyap's views have been published in *The Guardian*, *Open Democracy* and *Tehelka*. He is regarded as a strongly emerging young literary voice from the north-eastern part of India.

He was in conversation with Preeti Gill, Consulting Editor, *Zubaan*. He admitted that the characters in the novel have been drawn from real life – thanks to a large family that his father had. "Something or the other is happening every day. Every person's life has some story to offer," he explained. 📖

# Physiotherapy workshop

The Centre for Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Sciences organised an 11-day workshop on manual therapy for faculty and students of the Centre. The workshop was conducted by Dr Vikas Johri (PT), an eminent manual physical therapist from the US.

Adoption of sedentary lifestyles in recent times has compromised both physical and mental health. Stiffness of spine and other joints of the body is a common complaint across various age groups. How to remove pain and stiffness in the spine and achieve flexibility in the joints was the focus of the workshop.

Dr Johri did his graduation from the Institute of Physiotherapy, University of Delhi, in 1995 and went on to complete his Postgraduation from Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan. He completed his Doctorate from the University of St Augustine, Florida. He specialises in Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy. 📖

# Free dental check-up camps

**THE FACULTY** of Dentistry at Jamia Millia Islamia is conducting regular dental check-up and referral camps, especially for the underprivileged sections of society, who find it difficult to afford dental treatment.

These dental check-up camps have been held at Okhla Centre of the Delhi Society for the Welfare of Special Children; Delhi Cheshire Homes (for Mentally and Physically Challenged), Okhla; and Balak Mata Centres at Matia Mahal and Qasab Pura, Delhi.

The Balak Mata Centres have been established by Jamia.

The Faculty provides certain basic treatment like scaling, restoration and extraction of teeth, etc, free of cost to people at these centres on a regular basis.

The Faculty has now decided to adopt these three centres officially to carry out its social outreach programme.

# The green brigade

Architecture students attend a conclave on green buildings, organised by PHDCCI



**Building a better future:** Students of Jamia at the event

**S**tudents of the Faculty of Architecture and Ekistics, Jamia, recently attended a conference on 'Green Buildings & Green Rating System' organised by the Environment

Committee, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in collaboration with Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India.

The conference was organised with the objective of enhancing the knowledge of building professionals on green building concepts and green building rating systems.

Leading national and international experts on green buildings shared their thoughts for a sustainable tomorrow in their case studies.

Among those whom the students got to interact with were Dr AK Tripathi, Director, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy; MK Srivastava, Additional Director, Petroleum Conservation Research Association; and Dr Prem C Jain, Chairman, Indian Green Building Council. **J**

## Chinese language course launched

**JAMIA MILLIA** Islamia has introduced a one-year certificate course in Chinese language. The course will be offered by the Academy of International Studies at Jamia. The classes commenced from July 29, 2013.

## Project SafetyPin

**S**arojini Naidu Centre for Women's Studies, in association with Jagori, has come up with a new app, safetypin, a feature aimed at enhancing women's security. It requires a smart phone (android or apple).

**Its features include:**

**Safety audit:** Users can conduct a spot safety audit on their smart phone and upload information and pictures.

**Record:** Users can upload information on harassment, hazards and locations like police stations, hospitals and shops.

**Wall:** Users can view all recorded information and audits in their neighbourhood and other defined locations and participate in an interactive environment. **J**

## Mettle for medals

**D**r AK Hafiz, Assistant Professor at the Department of Physics, has won two gold, one silver and two bronze medals in Senior National Powerlifting Championship, 2013, from his home state West Bengal.

The National Powerlifting Championship 2013 was held in Mangalore from August 21-26, 2013.

**He has won the medals in the following categories of the Championship:**

- Gold medal and national champion in the 120 kg

weight class in the unequipped category, with record lift in squat event

- Gold medal and new national record in the 120 kg weight class bench press event of the equipped category
- Silver medal in the inter-state category of the event
- Bronze medal in the 120 kg weight class squat event of the equipped category
- Bronze medal in the 120 kg weight class open category of the event **J**



**Upbeat about upgradation:** (Above and next page) University faculty attending an ASC programme

# Back to the classroom

The Academic Staff College of Jamia Millia Islamia fulfils an important academic need — that of providing for the skill and knowledge upgradation of teachers

**I**t's a class with a difference. In the Red Room of the Academic Staff College (ASC) of Jamia Millia Islamia, nestled in the quiet back lanes of the University, a political science expert from Jamia is teaching his students the politics of economy, explaining to them how in present times prices are not determined only by the interplay of demand and supply, but by the manoeuvring of a few big corporates.

Listening to him, seated on bright red chairs around a bright red conference table are not economics students from school or college, but teachers from across the country. People who teach Law, Dentistry, Zoology, Chemistry, Languages and other subjects at the university level. They are here to participate in a three-week-long refresher course organised by the ASC on Human Rights and Social

Inclusion, as part of which they would get a better understanding of women's rights, minority rights, child rights, migrants' rights and other dimensions of Human Rights.

Prof Mehtab Manzar, the Coordinator of the programme and a faculty at the Department of Political Science in Jamia, says the programme was essential because member-states of the United Nations are expected to follow global benchmarks and the need was felt to spread awareness about Human Rights issues at all levels. The UGC had taken up this task, and incorporated Human Rights in higher education. Thus the need for a programme for Human Rights to the teaching staff of colleges.

Besides attending lectures, the programme entails submitting assignments, including a book





review, a research proposal and presenting a paper, and writing an objective-type test.

This is just one of the programmes that the ASC is running to train the country's teachers round the year. The College, which started functioning in 1987 following the New Education Policy of 1986, is one of the 45 institutions mandated by the UGC to run refresher and orientation programmes for teachers in higher education. A host of programmes, as per the requirements specified by the UGC, are conducted round the year at various levels – from principals' workshops to interaction programmes for PhD scholars.

Prof Mujtaba Khan, Director of the College, says

**The curriculum is designed by a committee, with members from the UGC and the College, and experts drawn from Jamia and other institutions.**

that the Institute is catering to the upgradation needs across the spectrum of higher education. Beginning with refresher and orientation courses, the College today has programmes specially designed for senior faculty, senior administrators, Group B and C staff, and for research scholars.

Dr Anisur Rahman, a senior faculty who has coordinated many of the programmes at ASC, says that while the mandate is provided by the UGC, the College retains a fair degree of autonomy to decide

the programme content. The curriculum is designed by a committee, with members from the UGC and the College, and experts drawn from Jamia and other institutions.

Teaching expertise is also drawn from all walks of life. Thus, for the Human Rights programme, speakers from the National Human Rights Commission, JNU, University of Delhi, social activists and theater personalities were invited.

In another programme running for English teachers – Translation: Tradition, Theory and Discursive Meditation – the College drew upon the vast expertise in Jamia besides outside experts: Eminent Hindi author Abdul Bismillah discussed errors in translations, Dalit writer Ajay Navaria discussed translating life into fiction, and Latin America expert Sonya Surabhi Gupta discussed the problems of translating Gabriel Garcia Marquez into Hindi.

Coordinator of the programme Roomi Naqvi, who is a faculty at the Department of English in Jamia, says the subject of translation is very relevant today. We get an insight into literature of other countries, for example Tolstoy, only through translations. No two translations of a work are the same, and how a text is translated, has implications for the issues that are highlighted.

At the other end of the spectrum, the administrative staff is trained in stock keeping, purchasing, putting notes on files and computer work.

Through the next few months, the college plans to run refresher courses in Media Studies and Governance (January 2014); West Asian Studies (February 2014); and a Disaster Management Course (February 2014), among others.

# The Cannes stamp

NASHEET SHADANI, a graphic design alumnus from Jamia Millia Islamia, has won a silver at the biggest advertising awards event

**N**asheet Shadani, a Jamia alumnus and senior art director at Ogilvy & Mather, one of the country's leading advertising firms, has won a silver at Cannes Lion Festival, 2013 – for a Persian and Urdu campaign. He won the award in the design typography category. In the advertising typography category, he won a bronze for his Save Calligraphy project.

Nasheet, who joined Jamia School in class V, went on to study graphic design at the Faculty of Fine Arts. Apart from a lot of other accolades, he has been ranked in the list of 'Top 30 Under 30' young leaders of the advertising and media industry in India by *Impact* magazine. He has also been involved in restoring the tradition of calligraphy and has done a campaign for the cause.

His latest, and much talked-about, work is the Ogilvy logo in Urdu. Besides the silver at Cannes Lions Festival, the logo has won Nasheet honours at The One Show, which takes place in New York.

**Mastering every-day art:** Nasheet Shadani of Ogilvy & Mather



# Biotech award



**Science mughals:** Javed Ahmad (left) and Dr Humayra Bashir

**T**wo students from Proteomics & Bioinformatics Lab, Department of Biotechnology, Jamia, won top awards in both oral and poster categories in a National Seminar held at Aligarh Muslim University. Dr Humayra Bashir won best research paper award in oral presentation, whereas Javed Ahmad won the best research paper award in the poster presentation category. The seminar on 'Plant Sciences: New Technologies, Conservation and Environment' also saw a lecture by Dr M Irfan Qureshi, Group Leader of the Proteomics & Bioinformatics Lab of Jamia.

# Bloggers park

**MOHAMMAD KHALID** Hasan, a 11nd year student of Electronics & Communication Engineering, has designed a blog for alumni of the Electronics Department of Jamia Polytechnic.

The purpose of designing this blog is to create a common platform, where alumni can converge, guide their juniors in the department and help them find internships and jobs.

Once an alumnus has registered, his name and details, including year of passing, will be displayed on the blog.



# Road to Kashmir

Five students from Jamia are to be part of a youth delegation to our northern-most state


A group of students from the Department of Political Science and Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Jamia Millia Islamia, are part of a youth delegation that is visiting Srinagar in September to meet Kashmiri youth.

Sampurna Dutta and Moutuchi Tamuli, pursuing MA (Political Science); Nehal Ahmad, pursuing BA (H) Political Science; and Sagnik Banerjee and Surya Ghildiyal, Masters' students of Peace and Conflict, will be part of the Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP) delegation to the state, an initiative of the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness The Dalai Lama, run by his Nobel Prize money.

The students are viewing it as a great opportunity to get a better insight into the conflict in the state, the anguish of the youth and the plight of the women, though they have already been interacting with the Kashmiri students on campus. Surya of

Peace and Conflict Resolution has already spent a month-and-a-half in Kashmir this summer, when, on her own, she did an internship with Anhat in J&K, studying the conflict from various lenses – army, bureaucracy and the Kashmiris – though she says that she did not get to meet students from Kashmir then.

Sampurna and Moutuchi, who hail from Assam, and who understand the conflict and the human rights issues in the North-east, feel they would get to understand the conflict in Kashmir better on this visit. Sampurna puts the Kashmir visit within her larger interest area of human rights and women's issues. This summer, she opted to intern with the National Human Rights Commission, wherein she frequented Tihar Jail, understanding the condition of prisoners, as well as the police force.

Nehal, who hails from Siwan in Bihar, and who is also the co-convenor of Jamia Discussion Forum, views such interactions as preparation to his career as an 'academic-activist'. And Sagnik, who is taking interest in responses of women in conflict zones, views this as an opportunity to understand the condition of Kashmiri women. 

**All for studying strife:** (Clockwise from left) Sagnik, Surya, Moutuchi, Nehal and Sampurna



# Uncle Sam's training

Two students of Jamia School experience life in the US to the fullest, and come back changed personalities, following their year-long stay



**US and us:** (Left) Aas with his 'host mother'; (above) Faraz at a sports event in the US

emphasis is on sports." And he did try playing American football, though he quit because of the aggressiveness required. Faraz, who picked up basketball and snowboarding, showed his mettle in another area – he won laurels in science and maths quizzes at school and state level.


At a stage in school life when most parents impose a curfew on their kids, and when most science students shuttle between school and coaching classes to crack the PCM puzzle, two students of Jamia School headed to the US, with complete blessings of their parents.

Aas Muhammad and Faraz Askari did their class XI in the US. They were part of the American Field Service (AFS) Student Exchange Programme, funded by the United States Bureau of Cultural and Educational Department.

Aas attended a school in Kansas city in Missouri and Faraz attended a school in Nampa city in Idaho.

Staying with the host family, cooking and travelling with them, attending school with US students and partaking of sporting activities was an eye-opener. Aas says that education was a surprise revelation for him. "US kids don't study much. The

While the Indian students were surprised at the openness between students and teachers (no 'sir' and 'madam' please, we are Americans) and highly developed lab infrastructure and reliance on technology for teaching-learning, they in turn typically surprised the American teachers by doing all mathematical calculations manually.

The two are now back from the US, each dazed by the life there, and each with an American accent. They are thankful for this one-year window to the world, which has greatly enhanced their communication skills, improved their spoken English and given them a new confidence. Aas was selected to visit Washington DC for 10 days, where he met a number of senators. Most importantly, it has given both of them a new career perspective. Realising that many options are available, they are now contemplating pursuing Economics. 



**For the students, by the students:** The Delhi Museum, where artifacts collected by students were displayed

## Our lessons in life

GHAZANFAR ZAIDI, once a student of Jamia School and now Head of Applied Arts at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Jamia, recounts how education was made interesting in the institution

**A** History researcher once returned from Europe, evidently impressed with the teaching-learning methods she witnessed on her visit. “Everything is about direct experience there,” she explained.

The Europeans, according to her, believed in not just reading about history, art, architecture or for that matter anything else, but also took their students to the site or museum for them to see and feel what they had studied.

So a paper on the Stonehenge would require the students to visit the site in UK and if a paper dealt with the Nazi holocaust, a visit to the Auschwitz camp was considered necessary.

This approach is not considered very practical in

India due to logistical difficulties, barring of course the once-in-a-year picnic-cum-excursion to Qutb Minar or some other monument in your city.

However, a few institutions in our country have also experimented in these methods of teaching. Jamia is one such institution. In retrospect, I get goose bumps when I think of my school days in Jamia and remember our history education out in the open.

It was in the 1960s. Jamia Millia had the privilege of very accomplished teachers like Mujahid Hussain Zaidi, Shakeel Akhtar Farooqui and Rasheed Ahmad Ahmedababi, who used the techniques of ‘experiential learning’ to make history more interesting to the young learner.

For history lessons, the students were taken on guided tours to places like Red Fort, Chandni Chowk and Old Fort to see for themselves how the Mughal rulers lived and governed.

During one such outing, I remember returning from the Tughlaqabad Fort with a bagful of coins and clay artifacts. These discoveries then became part of an in-house museum, called Delhi Museum, which had been set up in our school. For a VIth standard student, it was a matter of great pride to turn an archaeologist, an explorer. This museum, unfortunately, doesn't exist anymore. I don't know what happened to the artifacts.

A drawing was not just about aesthetics, but students would also learn to draw to scale, as they maintained the proportion between Qutb Minar and the adjoining Quwatul Islam mosque.

Initially, there were instances when the students would walk from Jamia to Tughlaqabad, or even Mehrauli. Covering a 20-km stretch on foot for a school trip may sound inhuman now, but I don't remember any of my classmates complaining. As years went by, we got our first vehicle — the much adored ‘Jamia Laari’ (lorry).

‘Wall of Life’, a chronology of human evolution and civilisation, made through a series of drawings by students, was put up on a wall of Jamia school's main building, and stayed there for several decades.

Over the years, the idea of experiential learning became institutionalised. *Khuli hawa ka madrassah* (open-air school) was a regular feature,

wherein our classes were held in open spaces to understand all kinds of flora and fauna, or whatever else that could be seen, heard or felt.

Students would run banks to learn basics of accounting, computing, accountability and transparency. And students using these banks learnt how to save money and understand budgeting. All of this in primary school itself. It helps to understand how to operate a bank account, doesn't it?

This was also the period when Jamia played a crucial role in inculcating democratic values that would contribute towards nation-building. And what better way to understand democracy than by holding systematic elections!

**I remember returning from the Tughlaqabad Fort with a bagful of coins and clay artifacts. These discoveries then became part of an in-house museum...**

Student elections were held at all levels, including primary and secondary schools. I remember fighting an election for the post of president, with ‘rocket’ as my poll symbol. Rocket used to be the buzzword then, as the US and Soviet Union were eager to outsmart each other in their race to the moon. Well, I did win the election!👍



**Openness to experimentation:** *Khuli hawa ka madrassah*, wherein students resided, and learnt in the open



# 'Best secular arrangement'

SY SIDDIQUI's learning at the School of Social Work, in class, on the field, and while playing cricket

As the Chief Operating Officer of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, SY Siddiqui has to manage a mammoth work force coming from diverse socio-economic and geographical backgrounds. And each day he thanks his higher education at Jamia Millia Islamia back in 1974-79, for having been a nursery in diversity. "It was the best secular arrangement I have ever experienced. After all these years, I attribute my capacity to adjust to various kinds of people and situations to the foundation that Jamia laid," says Siddiqui.

Siddiqui joined Jamia in 1974 after schooling from Kanpur. At the behest of his elder brother, who was teaching at the School of Social Work in Jamia, Siddiqui decided to test the waters for a week or so before finally joining Bachelor of Social Work. It didn't take him much time to decide. "The atmosphere of the School was very informal, very compelling. It was a small set-up, so there was one-to-one relationship between teachers and students." Such was the affection that a faculty member kept toffees with him, and gave a toffee every time a student performed well.

Siddiqui recalls, "Many a times he gave me two toffees, saying 'You are beyond my expectations'. This, perhaps, is the strongest memory in my mind."

Another fond memory for Siddiqui is that of the sports hours in Jamia, where

he was inducted into the cricket team. "It might not have been a very lavish infrastructure back then, but the University had a very competitive offering of sports." Though sports entailed managing study and sports each day, Siddiqui is grateful for that experience and says, "The biggest learning from the field which I can share with you is that in life you win some and lose some. In corporate world too you don't win each day and can get frustrated easily. Our team had some embarrassing losses but would come back to play. (What is ) important is not losing, but coming back each time."

And sports didn't deter Siddiqui from topping in his batch with 77 percent marks. People advised him to switch over to the University of Delhi for a Master of Social Work (MSW), but Siddiqui decided to join the MSW programme at Jamia, launched just when he was in the final year of graduation. It was a big risk to join a new programme, but Siddiqui says he rated the Jamia faculty very highly.

Siddiqui took up Industrial Relations and Personnel Management as his specialisation, and was offered a job by Escorts Hospital straight after he completed the course, even as he was interning with a glass manufacturing company in Faridabad. The fact that there were contenders from the prestigious IIMs too for this job, speaks volumes about the product that Jamia has to offer. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating. For many years after I came out I saw that people who had done MSW from Jamia were very well accepted."

As a grateful alumnus of the University, Siddiqui keeps coming back, assisting the School with curriculum upgradation as and when required, helping students with jobs and internships and, of course, playing friendly matches on the now-upgraded sports grounds.

He also has an earnest piece of advice for his alma mater. "Packaging and presentation are very important, even if your product is very good. Jamia will have to increase speed and responsiveness by changing educational methodology. Overseas educational connect is one potential area to exploit. It's the timing of change that will prove decisive."



# A scientist, an artist

The lesser-known side of PROF PANKAJ SHARAN, the Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Basic Sciences

He wields the paint brush with as much ease as he does his mathematical calculations.

Prof Pankaj Sharan, Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Basic Sciences, is an avid translator and an artist, and has translated more than 50 Hindi and Bangla poems into English.

Prof Sharan did his MSc in Physics from Allahabad University and a PhD in Theoretical Physics from IIT Kanpur, in 1977. But all along, literature and the arts have been his passions, thanks to the environment that the family and school provided.

Says he, "About 10 years ago I translated about a dozen poems of the Hindi poet Sudama Pandey 'Dhumil' because I wanted my non-Hindi speaking friends to know about him." After that he translated poems by Sarveshwar Dayal Saxena, Kunwar Narain,



As I see myself: Self-portrait of Prof Sharan

Vishnu Khare, Bodhisattva and 'Agyeya'.

While publishing these works — and a career in literature or translation was never on cards — Prof Sharan did contemplate becoming an artist. "I spent most of my 'Science Talent Scholarship' of NCERT (1964-73) in buying art material and art books," he says. He likes doing abstract or realistic landscapes, portraits and human figures.

One of his watercolours was chosen as an entry at the State Lalit Kala Akademy,

Lucknow, in 1971. He participated in a group exhibition at Allahabad University in 1979, where he was teaching before joining Jamia in 1981. Now, after more than three decades, Prof Sharan will exhibit his work in Jamia from October 3 to 5, 2013.

## Engineering honour

The Delhi Chapter of IEEE Power & Energy Society (PES), chaired by Prof Mini Shaji Thomas, Professor at Jamia Millia Islamia, has been adjudged the outstanding chapter among all the 230-plus chapters across the world in 2012. The award plaque was presented to Dr Thomas for her outstanding leadership of the Delhi chapter by Prof Noel N Schultz, the President of the IEEE Power & Energy Society, during an awards ceremony in Vancouver, Canada, on July 23, 2013.



Prof Mini Thomas (right) receiving the award

The IEEE Power & Energy Society (PES) provides the world's largest forum for sharing the latest in technological developments in the electric power industry, for developing standards that guide the development and construction of equipment and systems, and for educating members of the industry and the general public. It has over 30,000 members.

## Golden strokes



PROF Ghazanfar Zaidi, Head of Jamia's Department of Applied Arts, has won a gold medal for his work 'Beginning of Words' at the Golden Pigeon Award, 2013, instituted by the FMG Group. Prof Zaidi's award-winning work is an extension of his work in the field of Arabic calligraphy. Another member of the Fine Arts Faculty, Vijayta Bhamri, won the bronze medal.

## The new Polytechnic building



The new Polytechnic building, designed by Radhika Viswanathan Associates, is located in the centre of a large court, flanked by exposed brick-clad buildings along the periphery. The red colour of brick of the already-existing buildings was overpowering, and the architects had to choose a surface material that would suit the ambience and yet give the building its identity. They decided to go for a brick facade upto the third floor and textured paint for the upper two floors. They added a curtain wall glazing in the centre of the building to give it an element of modernity and lightness.

The building has two wings, with a courtyard in the middle. This gives a feeling of openness in the centre, besides providing natural light in the rooms. It consists of 16 classrooms, with the capacity to seat 70 students each. There are laboratories for the mechanical, electrical, computer and electronics branches. There is a lecture theatre for 132 students, and a seminar hall for 112 participants on the ground and second floors. The workshop is in the basement. The built up area of the building is approximately 83,800sq ft.



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