



**Media Coordinator's Office
Jamia Millia Islamia**

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Press Release

**Regional Cooperation in South Asia inconceivable without India says Former VC-
University of Allahabad at a Seminar in JMI**

The need for greater cooperation among South Asian countries to sort out their differences was emphasized at a two-day international seminar on '**Governance, Human Rights and Regional Cooperation in South Asia: Opportunities and Challenges of Globalization**' that opened at Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) today.

The seminar, which was inaugurated by Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, JMI, has been jointly organized by the university's UGC-Human Resource Development Centre and UMIKS, University of Kashmir.

Prof. Khurshid Iqbal Andrabi, Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir was the Guest of Honour and Prof. Rajendra Govind Harshe, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Allahabad delivered the keynote address on the occasion.

Prof. Talat Ahmad said that the resolution of differences was necessary for the progress of the region as a whole. He referred to an earlier proposal of a gas pipeline from Iran to India and said that this would have addressed energy requirements to a large extent.

Describing the seminar as significant given that it is taking up issues like governance, human rights and regional cooperation in South Asia, he said mutual cooperation was in everybody's interest. There are problems that are specific to the region, like, a large population and less land.

Prof Ahmad said the region's advantage was its large workforce which if skilled and trained properly can become a huge asset for the development of the world.

Talking about the composite culture of the region, Prof. Andrabi said that no country can live without support and cooperation of another. It was imperative for South Asian countries to cooperate for the development of the region by becoming more accommodating and tolerant.

Prof. Harshe said that regional cooperation in South Asia was inconceivable without India, it being the largest in terms of size, population and sustained growth. These, he added have led to the perception that India may also have hegemonic designs.

He said that South Asia given its commonalities of language, religion even food, should be conceived as a civilizational system which can have harmonious chords and unity among diversities.

Prof Harshe said, "Military solutions are not an answer to political problems".

The inaugural session was followed by the plenary session with distinguished speakers like Prof. Riyaz Punjabi, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Mr. Kapil Kaak, Former Air Vice Marshal and Dr. Shujaat Bukhari, senior journalist speaking on the theme.

Over 150 papers will be presented by scholars and academics on 18 themes of contemporary relevance.

Prof. Anisur Rahman, Director, UGC-HRDC welcomed the guests and Ms. Muslim Jan, Seminar convener (UMIKS, University of Kashmir, J & K) introduced the theme of the seminar. Dr. Azra Khursheed, UGC-HRDC, JMI gave away the vote of thanks.

Among those present at the function were Deans, Heads of Departments, Directors of Centres, faculty members and students of the university and the delegates who will present their papers over the next two days.

Prof. Saima Saeed
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