

Media Coordinator's Office
Jamia Millia Islamia

February 7, 2017

Press Release

Plea to open a Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Management at Jamia Millia Islamia

In the backdrop of the earthquake that shook Uttarakhand, Delhi NCR and other parts of North India, Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia and renowned Earth Scientist today urged the Government to accept the university's proposal to set up an Advanced Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Management to deal with such natural calamities.

Prof Ahmad was speaking at the inaugural session of the two-day National Conference on 'Geo-informatics for Natural Resource Management' organised by Department of Geography, JMI.

"It is a matter of coincidence that we have gathered here to discuss natural disasters just when last night the capital was rocked by an earthquake having its epicentre in Uttarakhand. This only highlights the urgency and the need to take natural calamities seriously, especially, to prepare our curricula to deal with them." Prof Ahmad said.

Prof Ahmad who himself is an eminent Himalayan geologist added that "it is not possible to prevent natural calamities but measures could be taken to minimise their after effect. In this context, I have already proposed to the Government and the UGC to set up an Advanced Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Management at Jamia Millia Islamia". He urged the Government to clear the proposal expeditiously.

Prof. V.K. Malhotra, well-known scientist and Member Secretary, ICSSR said that in view of the excessive abuse of natural resources and the resultant ecological disasters, it was imperative that Physics and Earth Sciences join hands to address these pressing environmental concerns. He added that the time had come to not only just think in this direction but also act quickly to protect natural resources like water, forests, flora and fauna before they were on the verge of extinction."

Prof. R. B. Singh, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University, New Delhi and Vice President, IGU said that it was important to focus on minimising the damage and destruction caused by natural calamities. He added that an inventory of available resources should be made and a global plan be put in place to ensure their judicious use.

Prof. V. K. Verma, Sr. Scientist and Head at the Ludhiana-based Natural Resources & Environment, Punjab Remote Sensing Centre, cautioned that population explosion that the world was witnessing would result in acute shortage of natural resources which had already reached their critical stages.

He added that a problem of this proportion could be addressed only at the global stage and not locally or regionally. He warned that the oil and water reservoirs of the world were almost running out and these could result in a possible war-like situation. So future conflicts would emanate from lack of these natural resources.

The two-day National Conference on 'Geo-informatics for Natural Resource Management' is being attended by Prof. Sharif Ahmed, Dean, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Head of Department, Prof. Masood Ahsan Siddiqui, Prof. Somnath Dasgupta, Chair Professor in Geography, and Prof Mary Tahir, among others distinguished guests and experts, besides faculty members and students of the university.

Prof. Saima Saeed

Hony. Deputy Media Coordinator

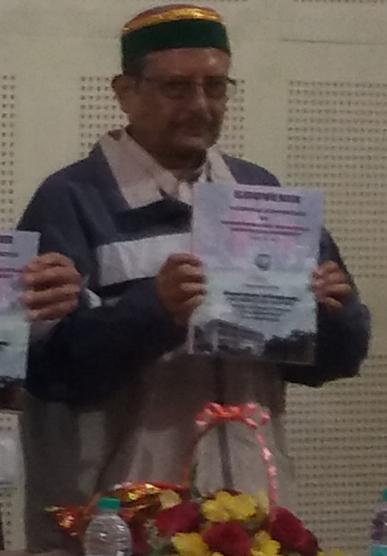
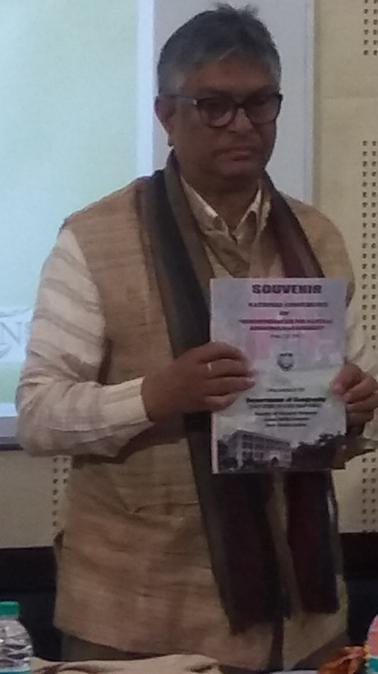
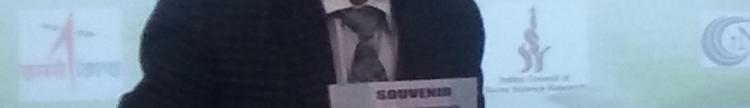
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Attachment: **Pictures**


National Conference
On
Geoinformatics for Natural Resource Management
7-8, February 2017

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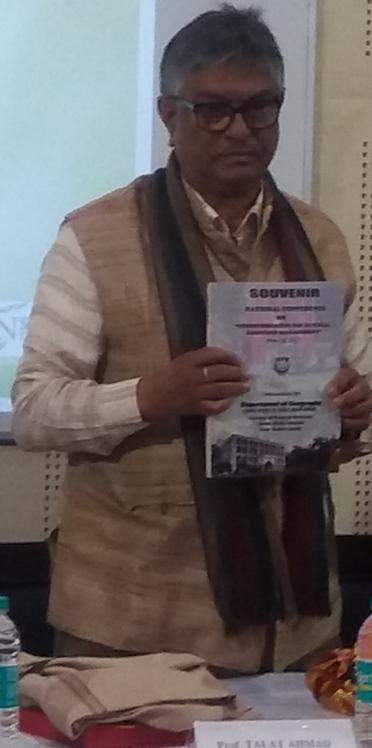
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