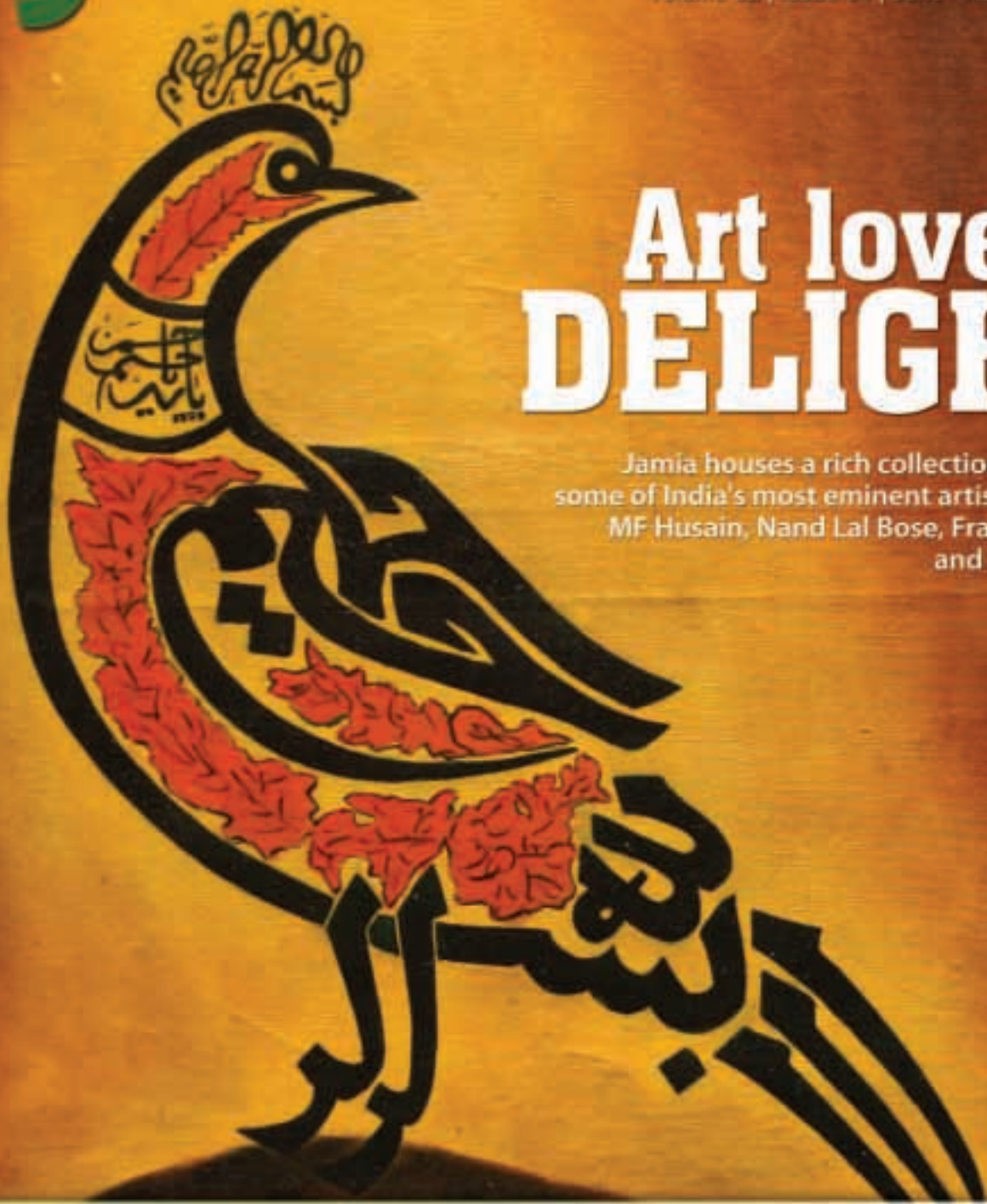


# JAUHAR

Volume 02 | Issue 04 | June - Aug, 2012



## Art lovers' DELIGHT

Jamia houses a rich collection of works of some of India's most eminent artists, including MF Husain, Nand Lal Bose, Francis N Souza and Satish Gujral

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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 Vice-Chancellor

The new term commenced in mid-July and is now in full swing. The University is once again abuzz with a variety of activities, including classes, conferences, seminars and sports. On the academic front, Jamia is joining hands with the Delhi University to form a META University, under whose banner both Universities will run common courses. This would provide students much greater mobility and a larger choice of subjects. In the first year, we would be starting a course of Mathematics with Mass Communication, while next year we would run a joint programme in Public Health Research. Also staying with its commitment to serve the minorities and promote their culture and literature, Jamia has approved the teaching of Urdu language as a compulsory course for a period of two years for all students who join Jamia.

The University was once again blessed with the presence of His Holiness The Dalai Lama, who spoke on 'The Importance of Non-Violence and Ethical Values'. His speech enthralled a full hall of eminent people, faculty and students. Jamia is truly fortunate to be recipient of his consistent warm affection.

As this edition of *Jauhar* goes into print, there are a number to ongoing interesting activities. While the Centre for North East Studies organised a seminar to discuss the disturbing situation in Assam, the Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace & Conflict Resolution has arranged a seminar on 'Central India: Towards Conflict Resolution', and the Centre for Nehruvian Studies is discussing the 'Sociology of Higher Education'. The Jamia Teacher' Solidarity Association painstakingly compiled a report dealing with innocent people who were jailed on charges of sedition and terrorism only to be released by the courts for lack of evidence.

A significant addition has been the addition of two new hostels for boys and girls, with a total capacity of 750. As we move on to the 12th Plan period, we hope to provide more and more facilities to our students.

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**Najeeb Jung**  
Vice-Chancellor





# A rich canvas

Jamia boasts of one of the richest art collections among Indian universities today, with works of Husain, Souza and many other eminent artists

Located majestically on the lawns of Jamia Millia Islamia is the University's MF Husain Art Gallery, which stages numerous art shows by Jamia's art students throughout the year. But its biggest wealth is preserved in a room adjacent to the display area and brought out for public view, perhaps once a year.

And when it is, one is bound to be dazzled by it. Most top names of the country's art scene are represented in the collection. You have a Husain work — another work of his is displayed in the Vice-Chancellor's office — and so do you have the work of legendary Souza. There are works of Ram Kumar, J Swaminathan and even Sadequain, considered the Husain of Pakistan.

The rich collection is the result of efforts of eminent artist A Ramachandran, who was the Head, Department of Art and Art Education, till the Nineties. It was he who procured these works over a period of time. Since the collection was rich, the faculty felt the need to have a gallery to display it. Ghazanfar Zaidi, senior faculty, recounts how they strove to have a gallery built. The gallery was inaugurated by artist Satish Gujral in the year 2008. The paintings were displayed at the inaugural exhibition. MF Husain, while he could not attend the event, sent a letter to the students, appreciating Jamia's efforts in fostering the right atmosphere for arts. A blown-up version of the letter is displayed at the entrance of the gallery

## Maqbool Fida Husain

**1915-2011.** Born in Pandharpur, Maharashtra, Husain was a self-taught artist. Beginning his career as a painter of cinema and Ram Lila posters, he was first noticed in 1947, when he won an award at the annual exhibition at the Bombay Art Society and received an invitation from Francis Souza to join the Progressive Artists Group.

The credit for popularising modern art among laypersons in India goes to Husain, the only progressive artist to stay back in India. He strongly believed in purity of Indian culture and continued with Indian themes, primarily women, till the last. Even the horses that he painted were a metaphor for women. While his subjects were Indian, his style was progressively western.



Oil on canvas, size: 12"x15"

## Nand Lal Bose

**1882-1966.** Bose studied Art at the Government School of Art in Kolkata, under Abindranath Tagore. Like this woodcut of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Bose made a body of work influenced by the Nationalist Movement. In fact, Mahatma Gandhi had invited him to make posters for the Haripura session of the Indian National Congress. Besides woodcut, the other technique he deployed was wash technique. He is known as a revivalist, and revived Ajanta Paintings and Patua paintings too, depicting village life and religious themes. He was a Padma Vibhushan awardee.



Woodcut, size: 3.5"x10"

## Francis Newton Souza



Oil on paper, size: 9"x11.5" copy

**1924-2002.** Souza studied at Sir JJ School of Art, Mumbai, before studying at the Central School of Art, London. He was one of the founder members of the 'Progressive Artists' Group of Mumbai. Souza was a rebel in life, and true to his life philosophy, his paintings, like the one here, are bold and known for their expression. A Christian from Goa, he believed that you don't have to show your 'Indianness' in paintings; rather one must create a work of art that is at par with international works of art.

## J Sultan Ali



Tempra on paper, size: 11.5"x16" copy

**1920-1990.** Sultan Ali studied Art at Government College of Art & Craft, Chennai. Influenced by Shantiniketan artists, especially Nandlal Bose, he depicted Indian village life in his colourful paintings, using Indian motifs. The painting above is representative of his earlier works. Ali's later works, however, departed from realism and became abstract. He won the National Award by Lalit Kala Akademi.





## Satish Gujral



Lithograph, size: 14.5"x19.5"

1925. Born in Jhelum, Pakistan, Gujral studied at Mayo School of Arts, Lahore, and then joined Sir JJ School of Art, Mumbai. At a time when most artists were going to the US or Europe, Gujral took the decision of going to Palacio Nationale de Bellas Arts, Mexico, to study mural techniques. Inspired by the Mexican mural movement, this image represents an early body of Gujral's work. Later on, his style changed dramatically, to become more decorative. Gujral is a Padma Vibhushan awardee.

## Paramjit Singh



Oil on canvas, size: 20"x24"

1935. Paramjit Singh did his Diploma in Fine Arts from Delhi Polytechnic in 1958 and studied print-making at Atelier Nord, Norway, in 1973. He has won the National Award from the Lalit Kala Akademi. Singh, a faculty at Jamia from 1963 to 1992, is known for his impressionist landscapes, and the painting of still life presented here is representative of his early work.

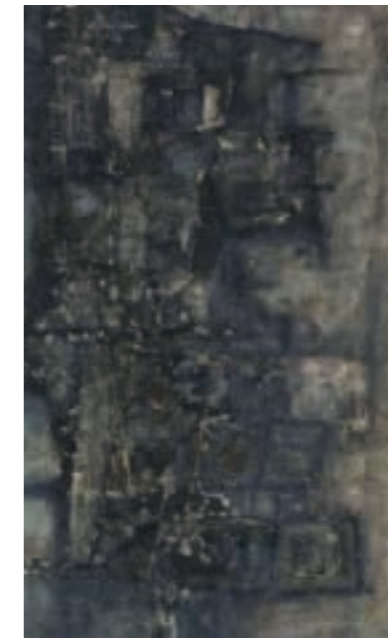
## J Swaminathan



Serigraphy, size: 18"x24"

1928-1994. Born in Shimla, Swaminathan studied at Delhi Polytechnic and later at the Academy of Fine Arts, Poland. A leftist trade unionist, he was, ironically, an avowed traditionalist when it came to use of symbols and colours in his paintings. Highly influenced by Indian miniature paintings, especially Pahari paintings, he borrowed elements of these and evolved his own style. The above painting, inspired by miniature art, is true to his style. Among his significant contributions was the setting up of a folk art museum in Bhopal.

## Ram Kumar



Oil on canvas, size: 18"x36"

1924. Born in Shimla, Ram Kumar studied at Sarada Ukil School of Art, New Delhi. A progressive artist from Mumbai, Kumar started by painting figurative works, and evolved into an abstract painter, as is clear from the painting above.

Brother of noted writer Nirmal Verma, Ram Kumar is also an accomplished writer. The 'Cultural Profile of Varanasi' is one of his distinguished works. He has been awarded the Padma Shri and Kalidas Samman, among others.

## Jagu Bhai Shah



Oil on canvas, size: 30"x48"

1916-1994. Born in Saurashtra, Gujarat, Jagu Bhai Shah studied Art at Sir JJ School of Art. He was a freedom fighter and his works reflected the city-scapes that documented the important events of India's freedom struggle. Working at Sabarmati, Shah was invited to Jamia to teach.

Most of his work is centered around Indian themes. This abstract piece was among his later works. It depicts village life, wherein human forms have been converted into abstract forms. He predominantly used the 'harmony' colours, pink, blue, and violet and preferred using thick colours.

## Sripat Rai

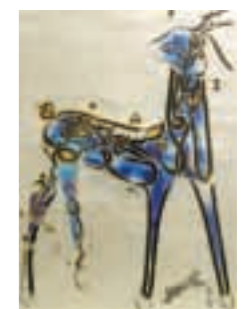


Oil on canvas, size: 30"x36"

Son of Premchand, Rai was a self-taught artist and was closely associated with artist Ram Kumar. He continued to edit his father's magazine *Hans*, and invited artists to make illustrations for the magazine. This work of Rai is inspired by Cubism.

## Ameena Ahmad

A multifaceted personality, Ameena Ahmad has played many roles, including teaching poetry at Columbia University and being an artist in residence at Harvard University. She knows eight languages and has done her PhD in Russian from the Moscow University. In her calligraphic work, she draws graceful bird and animal motifs and draws Urdu couplets within these motifs.



Calligraphy, size: 30"x40"

# ‘Today’s reality is environment’

The Dalai Lama engages in a discussion on a range of issues with Jamia students

All the 7 billion human beings have the capability of being happy. No one wants problems. Still, many of our problems are our own creations because we lay too much emphasis on the secondary issues of national boundaries, religious differences, colour and race. Today’s reality is the environment issue. The entire humanity should take care of the environment issue. If you act according to the new reality, your approach will be more realistic, whereas much of our approach is unrealistic.

This was The Dalai Lama, talking on the theme of ‘The Importance of Non-Violence and Ethical Values’ at Jamia Millia Islamia on September 12. He engaged in a lively discussion with the students of Jamia during his visit.

At individual level, he said, even hypocrisy was a form of violence. Saying nice words but with wrong intention was violence, he said, emphasising the need for consistency between thoughts, words and deeds. In this respect, he did not spare the world leaders for the inconsistency between what they proclaimed, and their policies. A genuine non-violence, he said, did not mean merely refraining from violence but having a genuine sense of concern for other beings. “The practice of compassion brings benefits to you too. In fact the first benefit comes to the practitioner,” he said, repeating an important Buddhist tenet.

Talking at human level, he said human body was created in such a way that it was meant for affection, not violence. “Our teeth are like those of deer and rabbit, not a lion. Our nails are not like those of a cat. Our hands are not meant to attack, but to embrace. Emotionally, the calmer we are, the healthier we are.”

Interestingly, he focused on the society’s basic unit, the family, as the starting point of non-violence, describing that those individuals who get affection in family tend to be happy persons deep inside.

In response to a question as to how should the people of North-East and Kashmir approach the theme of non-violence when they are fighting for their rights, The Dalai Lama said, “Non-violence



**Of wit and wisdom:** The Dalai Lama answering a question in his characteristic witty style

doesn’t mean we should accept injustice. We have to fight for our rights.” Citing Mahatma Gandhi’s example, he said, “Gandhi didn’t obey.”

Giving reason for his contended nature and a smiling face, he attributed it to his mother’s compassion, and described how, as a child, he used to play perched on his mother’s shoulders. “I received maximum affection at that age, so I can show affection to others more easily,” he said.

He also attributed his sense of contentment to his Buddhist training. Describing how the 20th century had been defined by strife, he said the 21st century has to be a century of dialogue, he said.

# Analysing Assam conflict

Is illegal immigration the root cause of the current problem? Experts discuss at a seminar on the ‘State of Assam’ at Jamia

There are dangers in simplification and demonization of a community while analysing a conflict like Assam; at the core of North-East conflict is conflict over land and resources. Intellectuals expressed these views at a conference on the ‘State of Assam’, organised by the Centre for North East Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, on September 3. Speakers, who have been visiting the camps since the violence erupted, felt that the social rubric of the region is far more complex than minority-majority issue, language issue or illegal immigration issue.

Activist Harsh Mander found it problematic that there should be a discussion on illegal immigration in the aftermath of violence in Assam. “We need this discussion separate from the Assam violence,” he said. “People will have anger about illegal immigration but that does not justify violence,” he added, and blamed “political parties fishing in troubled waters” for escalating tensions.

Sanjoy Hazarika, Director, Centre for North East Studies, Jamia, said immigration was a movement of labour force; there was “no great conspiracy”. People move where they find work, he said. He added that illegal immigration is a very sensitive issue in Bangladesh. “Bangladesh is a sovereign country and no country likes to acknowledge that its people are



**Trouble talk:** Sanjoy Hazarika, Director, Centre for North East Studies (first from right) with panelists

leaving because there’s no work.”

Eminent journalist George Verghese also warned against the mistake of understanding the problem in terms of immigration and minority-majority, saying, “The whole of North-East is immigrant. It’s a question of who came first.” There are overlapping issues, like question of original rights, minority versus majority, language issue, etc, but all these have taken on the form of conflict because of lack of jobs. Hence the pressure on land is immense. The answer to the problem lay in development of Assam and also of Bangladesh, and regional cooperation for that, said Verghese.

# 14-crore grant for NE Studies

Funds to be utilised to create a unique resource centre for the North Eastern Studies

The Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research has received a grant of ₹14 crore to expand the programme. Sanjoy Hazarika, Director of the centre and who holds Dr Saifuddin Kitchkew Chair, says the funds would be used, to begin with, to build a North East House on Jamia campus. “The centre will be designed in North-Eastern style of architecture. We plan to have materials brought from the North-East, including textiles, to depict the beauty of the area.”

Land for the centre on the campus would be made available by the University shortly, Hazarika informed.

Hazarika says the centre would have a rich documentation centre, where films, music and other cultural reference materials of the region would be available under one roof. The centre also plans to expand its faculty, invite research scholars and have a research programme on each state. It is already organising a series of seminars.





# A rush for Turkish in Jamia

The University is increasingly becoming a leading destination for international languages and international studies programmes, Turkish being a new entrant

The Faculty of Humanities and Languages at Jamia Millia Islamia has hitherto taught Persian, Arabic and many other languages, but giving these languages competition now is a new entrant, Turkish, whose BA (Hons) programme, introduced from this academic session, saw 400 applications. “The response is overwhelming. We didn’t expect it. It’s on account of a new phase of strengthening of bilateral trade relations between India and Turkey in the last few years, which has added to the demand for language experts on both sides,” says Najeeb Jung, Vice Chancellor, Jamia.

Prof Gyan Prakash Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Languages, who is in charge of this programme, adds, “Indian presence in Turkey is increasing because the Government there is open to Indian investments. At the same time, because Turkey did not secure entry into EU, it shifted its attention to this economic region. The engagement

between the two countries is in heavy industry.”

Besides the Bachelor’s course, Jamia is offering a Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Turkish, and even faculty and research scholars from JNU are attending these courses, for their research work. The University has enrolled 160 students for its Turkish courses this year.

Faculty for these programmes will be provided by the Turkish Government, as per a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Turkish Government and Jamia. “They have asked us for space, while the faculty will be provided by their Government.”

This is part of University’s thrust to enhance understanding about geographical regions across the globe. Its Pakistan Studies Programme, Central Asia Studies Programme, China Studies, Bangladesh Studies and Afghanistan Studies are aimed at preparing a cadre of researchers who have a firm grip over geopolitical issues. **J**

## Through a global lens

With a view to upgrade content, MCRC enters tie-ups with University of Westminster, London, and York University, Toronto

The AJK Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC), Jamia, has entered a tie-up with the School of Media, Art and Design of the University of Westminster, for a multi-pronged collaboration. MCRC is keen to start practice-based research, which involves thesis based on ‘experimentation’, and will seek Westminster’s help, inviting faculty from Westminster. It will also initiate student- and faculty-exchange programme with Westminster, as also invite its faculty for workshops.

MCRC has an old relationship with York University, having been launched with the expertise of faculty from York. It’s now reviving those ties, by



**Scripting a change:** MCRC campus at Jamia inviting their expertise to introduce digital cinema. Its flagship programme, MA Mass Communication, will be restructured with inputs from York University.

# Making of new Pakistani cinema

Three young filmmakers describe how the film industry of Lahore is resuscitating itself

Mazhar Zaidi and Farjad Nabi are both journalists-turned-filmmakers from Pakistan. When they came together to make a film titled *Zinda Bhaag*, on a burning issue in Pakistan, they had to seek help from across the border, as the film industry in Lahore is in tatters and there was no technical help they could get.

Producer of the film, Mazhar Zaidi, sharing his experience of filmmaking with an audience at the Pakistan Studies Programme at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, on August 7, said, “It was a challenge to go for a feature film in Pakistan. The whole film industry has collapsed. No technical facility is available. Nor are actors available.” Therefore, besides seeking technical assistance from India, Mazhar and director Farjad Nabi roped in Meenu Gaur, an alumna of the AJK Mass Communication and Research Centre (MCRC), Jamia, and a PhD in film studies from London, as co-director.

The film, to be released in December this year, takes up a sensitive issue, that of illegal immigration. Mazhar says that as they got going with the shooting, “We were stopped on streets... People congratulated us for shooting in Lahore. One gentleman claimed it was after 20 years that a film was being made in Lahore.”

Describing the bold content of new Pakistani



**Shared celluloid dreams:** (Left to right) Mazhar Zaidi, Meenu Gaur and Farjad Nabi at Jamia Millia Islamia

cinema, the trio said that themes like *Bol* and *Khuda Ke Liye* were equally popular as any mainstream entertainment film, and financially very viable. Also, the categorisation between multiplex audiences and single-screen audiences was not as stark as in India, they claimed. **J**

## Understanding Edward Said

Prof Gauri Viswanathan delivers a talk on ‘Edward Said, Dissent and Postcolonialism’

The Outreach Programme of Jamia Millia Islamia organised a talk on ‘Edward Said, Dissent and Postcolonialism’ by Prof Gauri Viswanathan on August 6.

Prof Viswanathan is a Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the Columbia University, New York, USA. Having studied under Edward Said, she talked about the many facets of Said she got to observe during her student days and later. She described the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon

as the worst phase in the author’s life, and how his works, thereafter, were impacted by the crisis.

She dealt at great length with his views on religion, particularly his stand that “Islam is a religion of resistance”. This, she said, was at variance with his consciously repudiating any link with religion, except when religion was understood as a cultural phenomenon.

She probed whether these two differing claims undermined his secular stance. **J**





# MNCs come calling

Microsoft, Google, Maruti throng Jamia campus for placements; ₹38 lakh offer to a student



**Getting industry ready:** Jamia students at work in a computer lab

**J**amia Millia Islamia has kicked off its placements activities for this year with some of the world's largest companies like Microsoft, Google, Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra and Mahindra and Works Application visiting Jamia to recruit students.

This is the first time that a Japanese Company, namely Works Application, visited Jamia to recruit students for its Singapore office. The Japanese company is recruiting students from BTech (Computer

Engineering), MCA, MSc Tech and MSc (Computer Science). In the first round itself, they short-listed nine students for final recruitment. They offered a salary package of 60 lakh Japanese Yen per annum (equivalent to ₹38 lakh per annum), which is by far the highest figure till date.

Microsoft India had recruited two students last year on a package of ₹16 lakh per annum. This year too Microsoft India has conducted their online tests at Jamia for final year students as also for 3rd year students who they wish to recruit for summer internship. They have shortlisted six students from the final year and 13 students from the 3rd year for the final round of interviews which will be conducted very soon.

Similarly, Maruti Suzuki also visited Jamia to recruit students especially from the Mechanical Engineering branch and conducted its online test for students and short-listed 24 students for the final round of interviews.

Mahindra & Mahindra also visited Jamia and conducted their online tests and short-listed six students for the final round of interviews.

There are many companies lined up to visit Jamia for recruiting students. Jamia is expecting to receive on campus: ADOBE India, HCL, SAMSUNG, Impetus, Lurgi India, Open Solutions, TATA Steel, Birlasoft, Snapdeal.com, etc.

Last year, there were 105 companies which had made offers to 475 Jamia students. **J**

## Building Australia on camel backs

**D**r Nahid Afrose Kabir, a Senior Research Fellow at the International Centre for Muslim and non-Muslim Understanding, University of South Australia, Adelaide, delivered an Extension Lecture on 'Muslims in Australia' at Jamia. The lecture was organised by the Department of Islamic Studies.

She described the contribution of Muslims, especially Afghans, in building modern Australia since the Eighteenth Century, transporting water on their camels in parched areas, helping in transportation of material and constructing roads. **J**

## Faculty of Architecture amongst top 10

**T**he Faculty of Architecture and Ekistics, Jamia Millia Islamia, has been ranked at the 8th position amongst the top 10 Architecture Colleges of the country, in a survey conducted by *Outlook* magazine, which has been published in its June issue. The Faculty of Architecture and Ekistics of Jamia got overall 810 points out of 1,000.

# A 'fair' campus

Intake of girl students increases at Jamia

**T**here has been an increase of about 12 percent in girl students at Jamia, following a 10 per cent reservation for girls. With this, the percentage of girls on the campus has crossed 30 percent.

The increase is not confined to traditionally popular courses among girls, but also to courses like engineering too. Says Najeeb Jung, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, "It is heartening to see girl students opting for engineering in large numbers."

Prof. Khalid Moin, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, says the seats reserved for girls were the fastest to be filled this year. And girls from outside Delhi constituted the majority.

For Jung, making the campus a conducive place to study for girl students is the top priority. "Our aim is to increase this representation to 50 per cent... It will be our endeavour to make the campus a safe place for the girl student," he says. **J**



**Of equal opportunities:** Girl students from Jamia partaking of student life

# Serves and volleys

Classes over, life begins on the sports grounds of Jamia each evening



**Evening rush:** A volleyball practice session

**E**very evening, as quiet descends upon classes, life begins elsewhere on the Jamia campus – its sports arena. Students of the University utilise the evening hours to practise. Jamia acquired a sports arena in 2010 thanks to the Commonwealth Games,

as it was a practice venue. Today, it is making use of that arena to train its sportspersons in basketball, table tennis, tennis, badminton, football, cricket, hockey and volleyball.

Sports Director Noor Mohammad says the idea is to create an atmosphere in the University and Jamia schools, wherein sports becomes a way of life and sportspersons are prepared at grassroots. And the evidence of that is the vibrancy that you witness on the grounds each evening.

This year, the University has given admission to more than 100 sportspersons at under-graduate and post-graduate levels, not only in above-mentioned disciplines, but in shooting, wrestling, swimming and taekwondo too, for which the University does not have sports facilities. In such cases, the sportspersons go to respective training centres for practice, and the University reimburses them the cost. **J**





**Instruments of social change:** Students practising their trade in a fitter workshop at the Jamia Polytechnic

# The hands-on cadre

The economy needs a large number of people with technical expertise in supervisory roles, and Jamia fulfils that need through its Polytechnic

**A** BTech or a BE from a reputed government or private institute is the dream of most youngsters. However, there's another very important niche that needs to be filled — people with hands-on knowledge of engineering functions, who are ready to dirty their hands on the shopfloor in supervisory roles. Jamia Polytechnic, an institute started in 1957, is fulfilling this crucial societal and economic need by providing diplomas in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics and Computer Engineering.

Prof NU Khan, Director, says, "There is an imbalance today between the number of engineers and diploma holders, as more students want to become engineers. We are fulfilling that crucial need of blue-

collar staff." Moreover alumni of Jamia Polytechnic are among the top technocrats and educationists, including eminent professors in the teaching fraternity and chief executive officers (CEOs) in the corporate sector.

The course is run in two shifts, morning and evening, the evening course being of four years. The course content confirms to the recommendation of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh, the Board of Technical Education, Delhi, and industry experts.

The curriculum development/ upgradation is a continuous and regular process. Syllabi are periodically revised to meet the industry need and to in-

clude new technological advancement. The latest syllabus revision workshop was held in January, 2012, in which 24 experts from academia and industry participated. The faculty members regularly upgrade their subject knowledge through refresher courses.

The Polytechnic has well equipped 27 laboratories and workshops, with all modern and state-of-art experimental set-up. It has recently received a special grant of ₹ 1 crore from the University to upgrade its laboratories.

Prof Khan says the Polytechnic attracts students largely from remote areas of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Making them industry-ready or eligible for further engineering education is a big contribution of the Polytechnic at Jamia.

The eligibility requirement is class X, and most students join straight after class X. After securing a Diploma, they become eligible for admission to a BE programme in Jamia (which is an evening programme). They can pursue this programme even while being employed. Furthermore they are also eligible for admission to the B Tech in any Engineering College under Lateral Entry Scheme.


Today, even girl students from UP and Bihar are joining the course, attracted by the job prospects or by the fact that, after the course, one becomes eligible for graduation in engineering. In the academic year

year Mechanical Engineering student, joined Jamia Polytechnic after class X from Patna, because her businessman father wanted her to become an engineer. She will appear for the BE course at Jamia after the Diploma course is over, and will do a part-time job alongside.

There are also those who join Jamia Polytechnic after class XII. Avinash Kumar Mishra, from Aurangabad in Bihar, wanted to prepare for IIT too, but family circumstances didn't allow it and he landed in the Polytechnic. His next stop, he says, will be BTech.

The Polytechnic attracts a large number of national land multinational companies for placements every year. Prof Khan says that due to infrastructure development in the country in recent years, demand for Civil Engineering students is especially high since the last three years.

Reputed companies such as CSC, HCL, Wipro, Siemens, Ashok Leyland, Blue Star, Tata Teleservices, NDPL, Maruti, BCH, Eicher, L&T, ETA etc conduct campus interviews for the students of various branches to fulfil their requirements within the country and abroad. Successful students have received starting packages of anywhere between ₹2.15 lakh to ₹3.5 lakh per annum.

The Polytechnic is thus not just an apt engineering platform, it's also a social springboard. 

ENGINEERED FOR JOBS	
Diploma in Civil Engineering	60 seats
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering	60 seats
Diploma in Electronics	60 seats
Diploma in Electrical Engineering	60 seats
Diploma in Computer Engineering	60 seats

2010-2011, there were 12 girl students out a total of 296 students (a mere 4 percent). Following 10 percent reservation for girl students, the figure has increased to 32 students out of 298 in the academic year 2012-13 (approx. 11 percent).

Mudabbira Naaz is a IInd year student of Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at Jamia Polytechnic. From a farming background in Bijnaur, Naaz did her schooling till class X at Aligarh Muslim University, following which the dream of becoming an engineer brought her to Delhi, where she lives in a rented accommodation with her two sisters (her elder sister is an MEd student of Jamia and younger sister a class VI student of Jamia School). Ummay-Salma, a IInd



**Above gender biases:** Mechanical Engineering student Mudabbira Naaz demonstrates the functioning of a machine in a workshop





# Long journey

How an art student from Sindri, Dhanbad, landed in Paris on a scholarship

Anupama Kumari had joined a drawing class in her native town, Sindri, Dhanbad. Like any other small-town girl, she knew stitching and tailoring, but turning that mandatory activity into a full-fledged career was not on the agenda. It was the chance discovery of a form for admission to Shantiniketan on her drawing teacher's table that changed her life. It was the last form that the teacher had; Anupama filled it, appeared for the entrance test of the prestigious institute, and was selected to a Diploma in Textile Design course. "No one counseled me that I should apply for a degree course, otherwise I would have done so," she recalls.

With her mother's encouragement and despite her father's reluctance, she took the first leap in her life, that of leaving home for Shantiniketan. In the peaceful ambience of that campus, for the first time she realised what her strengths in design were. She topped her batch, but the fact that it was a Diploma weighed on her mind, and so she applied for the Bachelor of Fine Arts course at Jamia Millia Islamia after the Diploma. She was selected and, again nudged by her mother, she came to Delhi, where she is happy to have learnt graphic design, sculpture, nature practice and other aspects of art, as part of the course.


Of course, what she learned at Shantiniketan helped immensely in Jamia too. And the small-town training helped her focus on her work, despite the distractions that a big city has to offer. "Very often my classmates would ask me, 'Why don't you chill out with us', but I realised that it was with great difficulty that I had come so far, and I had to justify my being away from home. I had an objective to achieve and thus continued to work assiduously," she says.

This meant that her work was appreciated both within and outside Jamia, including at the Microsoft Leadership Conclave titled 'Get Future Ready – India 2020' and in a UNICEF workshop.

It was while she was pursuing her MFA at Jamia that a faculty member told her about a scholarship for art students offered by École Na-

tionale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France, whose alumni include Claude Monet and Edgar Degas. The scholarship is managed by the Krishnakriti Foundation in India. The foundation asked her to submit her work, and eventually selected her.

The year-long scholarship is worth €615 per month, besides airfare, housing and social security. The selected students will be involved in an art project. At the time of this interview in July, Anupama was busy learning French at Alliance Française, Delhi. She was already contemplating further work in France in case an opportunity presented itself.

Anupama has definitely come a long way, fuelled by the values inculcated by her small-town upbringing – focus and perseverance. 



# Courting the wild

A badminton player sets out to pursue excellence in the wilderness, with camera replacing racquet

Ahmad Kamal Saifi, a national-level badminton player, had been selected by Air India as a sports person. At the same time, he was also selected to the prestigious AJK Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC), Jamia, under the sports quota. It was a tough choice and Saifi decided in favour of MCRC. Of course, managing the grueling academic schedule of MCRC and pursuing a sport – he was the captain of the University badminton team – has been difficult for a person who had no prior experience of handling cameras, but he has taken to his new calling rather fast.

He recently won the First Prize in an international photography competition hosted by the BuTinah Island. The theme of the event was 'Art of Conserva-

tion' in which his photograph of a frog, titled 'The Eye of Pathos', was declared the winning entry. He was also awarded the sum of US\$2000.

Having graduated from MCRC, he has made four documentaries on social issues such as on female infanticide and dowry for an NGO, and has only recently completed shooting a documentary on the snow leopards in Dras, Kashmir. More documentaries and photographs on wildlife are on the anvil. For a person whose world would have revolved around a shuttlecock, to be talking about pugmarks, tiger spotting and poaching is a tectonic shift. 



## In South Africa, for a Psychology congress

Sramana Mazumdar, a junior research fellow at the Department of Psychology, Jamia Millia Islamia, participated in the 30th International Congress of Psychology (ICP), which was organised at the International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa from July 22 to 27, 2012.

The objective of the Congress was to showcase

new frontiers in psychological science and practice as a means of enriching and improving human life. It had more than 6,000 participants, presenting papers and participating in poster presentations on a wide range of themes in the area of psychology.

Sramana attended an Advanced Research Training Seminar (ARTS) as part of the Congress.





# Going places with PhD


A student of West Asian Studies makes a presentation on the theme in Italy

**K**ashif Hasan Khan, a PhD Scholar at the Centre for West Asian Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, attended a five-day-long PhD summer school in Trento, Italy, from July 4 to 8.

The summer school was conducted by the European Research Network in collaboration with the University of Trento and the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (EURICSE), and was held on the campus of the University of Trento.

Khan was the only Indian among 35 research scholars from over 20 countries who participated in the summer school. There were intensive lectures on 'Social Economy', 'Solidarity Economy' and 'Future of Capitalism'. "The level of discussion on a range of issues was truly enriching," Kashif says. He made a presentation

on 'Islamic Banking' to demonstrate how it is socially responsible and how it can be an alternative to crisis-ridden capitalism.

Kashif is working on 'Issues and Challenges of Risk Management in Islamic Financial Industry: A Case Study of Bahrain' as his PhD topic and has made trips to Turkey and Bahrain to conduct a survey on 'Risk Management in Islamic Banking'. He has written several articles on the theme of 'Islamic Banking and Finance' for journals. 



## Leadership in Germany

**S**habir Hussain, an alumnus of Jamia, who is currently pursuing a Master's in Religious Science programme at the University of Erfurt in Germany, has been elected as the president of the student's union of the University, with approximately 5,000 students as members. It is the first time in the history of the state of Thuringia in Germany that an Indian has become the head of the student body.

Hussain did his BA programme from Jamia, and followed it up with an MA in Sociology and a PG Diploma in Development Communication from MCRC, Jamia.

He worked as technical head of TV Suriname before moving to Germany.

## Part of the cosmos

**F**our students from the Centre for Theoretical Physics, Jamia Millia Islamia, participated in a summer school of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Italy. The two-week programme, with participation of 210 science scholars from around the globe, focused on Cosmology. It dealt with a host of matters pertaining to the Universe, from dark matter to dark energy and from gravity to galaxy clusters. It was designed to expose new cosmologists from all over the globe to new research in the expansive field of Cosmology.

# Comfort zone


Jamia is going for an increase in hostel capacity. What does it mean for students?

**J**amia is going for an increase in hostel capacity soon. Following the grant of ₹16 crore by the Union Home Ministry to create accommodation for 450 students from Jammu & Kashmir, the University is planning construction of additional hostels. At the same time, Jamia has built a new hostel building for boys, taking up boys' hostel capacity from 850 to 1,200.

The increase means that far more students will be able to partake of the facilities that Jamia hostels have to offer. Jamia hostels have comfortable rooms, ample storage space, wi-fi connectivity, TV room, reading room and a gym, which even non-hostellers can access. The new hostel building for boys is also equipped with a solar heater.

Nayla Jamil, a IIIrd Semester student of MA Sociology, says she has been living in the hostel since she joined Jamia in BA, and finds the stay most comfortable. "We are even provided cooking facilities in common area, where we can make our own noodles." Babina, a student of MA English, says she was pleasantly surprised by the quality of food in the hostel. "We didn't expect such good food. There's such a wide variety." Law student Sumbul Fatima seconds her, saying, "The festival food is awesome. From *biryani* and *sewai* to snacks and ice cream, there's everything."

Mohammad Atif Siddiqui, a student of BBA Final year, has been staying in Jamia hostel since he joined Jamia. He moved into a building that had been renovated especially for the Commonwealth Games in 2010. He doesn't fail to admire the well-tiled floors, which were done during the renovation work. To MA Psychology student Ajmeera Khatoon what's particularly appealing is the spacious lawns on the hostel campus.

A multi-religious and multi-cultural campus that Jamia is, managing diversity is least of the concerns for hostel students. Problems of compatibility are more in the nature of one roommate wanting to study and the other wanted to sleep. But as Sumbul says, such is the bond that's forged in the hostel, who wants to sleep before wee hours in the night? 



**Home away from home:** (Top) Nayla Jamil working on her laptop in the hostel room; (Above) Jamia's gym





# Rs 40 a month

So acute were Jamia's financial problems in the pre-Independence years that its Vice-Chancellor chose to survive on a paltry sum



**Hard times:** Dr Zakir Husain (seated in the centre) with Jamia faculty and students in the Karol Bagh campus

A recurring theme in Jamia's life in pre-Independence years was the financial crunch that the University (then only a college) faced, and how it kept up the academic momentum despite this. The institution had been established with fervour during the heady Non-Cooperation and Khilafat days of 1920-21, but once the Non-Cooperation Movement died out, and the Caliphate was abolished in Turkey, the need for the Khilafat Committee in India also ceased. And since the main source of funding for the nascent Jamia had been the Khilafat Committee, funds dried up and a question mark hovered over its existence too. From this point started a constant struggle to keep the institution going, which continued till the country gained Independence.

Dr Zakir Husain, who had been active in the formation of Jamia in 1920, was pursuing his research

in Germany when crisis struck Jamia. In Germany, he had forged a close camaraderie with two other students from India, M Mujeeb and Abid Husain. When news of Jamia floundering reached them, they decided to return to India to devote their time to serving it.

At a very young age, Dr Husain took over the reins of the institution and infused new life into it. Of course, he was guided by two eminent Muslim leaders, Hakim Ajmal Khan and Dr Mukhtar Ahmed Ansari. In the face of the financial crisis, work entailed garnering funds by appealing to the sentiments of donors. A big question in the aftermath of the Non-Cooperation and Khilafat movements, and a growing distance between Hindus and Muslims, was: should Husain appeal to both Hindu and Muslim donors? In this context, M Mujeeb, Dr Husain's friend, colleague and later Vice-Chancellor of Jamia,

in his book *Dr Zakir Husain: A Biography*, describes a meeting they had with Gandhiji at Sabarmati Ashram. This was the first interaction between Gandhiji and Dr Husain. Mujeeb writes, "They had long talks about the Jamia and the possible methods of raising funds. Gandhiji said he was willing to go round with his beggar's bowl, but was afraid that it might have an unfavourable effect on Muslim opinion about the Jamia... Dr Zakir Husain agreed. He, too, thought it essential that financial support for the Jamia should come from the Muslims."

One of the sources that Dr Husain sought to tap, was the Nizam of Hyderabad. After much effort, he did extract a promise of a monthly grant of Rs 1,000 from the Nizam's government. But this came with a rider: the grant would be cleared every month only after the approval of the Chief Commissioner of Delhi. This proved to be a difficult condition during the Civil Disobedience Movement, when a few members of Jamia decided to join the Movement. Dr Husain had adopted a stand that the University would not participate in the Movement, and those who wished to join had to do so in their individual capacity. And yet, the Chief Commissioner chose to cite their participation as the reason for stopping the grant. It took four years before the grant could be resumed, with hectic parlaying by Dr Husain.

Given such a precarious situation, paying staff salaries was the biggest headache for Jamia. It was only a sheer sense of dedication that kept a group of individuals glued to the institution. Leading them was Dr Husain, who, after his research from Germany, could have sought greener pastures. But he was wedded to Jamia's cause.

The unsaid rule was that the lowest paid members would get their salaries first. This meant that Dr Husain was the last one to be paid his salary.

Dr Husain joined at a salary of Rs 100, but given the hardships that the institution faced, he got it reduced to Rs 80. The unsaid rule was that the lowest paid members would get their salaries first. This meant that Dr Husain was the last one to be paid his salary. To ensure some semblance of regularity in payments, it was decided that senior staff would accept half of their salary, while the remaining amount would be credited to their account. Thus, the amount that Dr. Husain received was reduced to Rs 40. It was only in 1944 that full salaries began to be paid. And till 1948, when Dr Husain left Jamia, his salary remained Rs 80.

Mujeeb recounts that people around Dr Husain, not believing that he could be short of money, would freely borrow from him, and he would always give, not having the heart to say "no". Who would have believed, after all? As Mujeeb says, "...even at this time, Dr Zakir Husain was as neatly dressed as one could be in coarse handspun, handwoven cloth and because of his natural dignity he gave the impression of being a well-to-do aristocrat who had chosen to live as modestly as possible."

## The precursor

As *Jauhar* (in its new avatar) completes two years, we bring to you images of old *Jauhar*, which was originally launched in 1923. The magazine then was handwritten, with news about Jamia, critiques of authors and literary works, travelogues and opinion pieces. A few copies of old *Jauhar* are preserved in Jamia's Premchand Archives.







# Art in every sphere

Legendary artist A Ramachandran spent a significant period of his life in Jamia, both contributing to, and imbibing from it

He was conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2005 for his outstanding service to the nation and his work is acclaimed internationally. But for A Ramachandran, art permeates every aspect of life.

A product of Shantiniketan, Ramachandran joined the Teachers' College of Jamia Millia Islamia in 1965. The Faculty of Fine Arts did not exist then. Even his senior Abul Kalam, and colleague Paramjit Singh, had joined Jamia as part of the Teachers' College. But, Ramachandran recalls, even at that time, the then Vice-Chancellor, M Mujeeb, was keen on having a Shantiniketan-like space in Jamia. "In the interview (conducted when he was joining) Mujeeb said, 'You are from Shantiniketan, try to make this place like Shantiniketan'. That was

Of art and education: A Ramachandran



the kind of encouragement we got from the University," Ramachandran says.

On his part, Ramachandran says he was comfortable about the idea of teaching students of Teachers' College a paper on art appreciation. He explains, "If you are an artist, you can handle many other subjects. It's not that I can't teach anything else. Teaching is a very creative profession. It entails how to write with a brush, how to arrange space, how to make charts, and even how to make diagrams. I never felt awkward."

He also got into the groove as far as life in Jamia was concerned, because of the sense of warmth and vast spaces it offered. For an artist from Kerala, who had spent quite a few years in Shantiniketan, life in the busy Jangpura locality in Delhi had been intimidating, but shifting residence to Jamia proved to be a boon. "Elsewhere in Delhi, there was no fellow feeling. But I was amazed by the humane qualities of people in Jamia. It was due to the cultural context in which Jamia had been established by a group of dedicated people. I soon became a part of the Jamia *biradari*."

Jamia and its neighbourhood, recalls Ramachandran, was a "wild place, a beautiful island". He describes his boat rides on the Yamuna and the long walks through paddy fields, which became the subject of some of his sketches.

The first move towards a separate Faculty of Arts was made when the requirements at the Teachers' College started changing, and given the thrust of the course, art education started losing its relevance. Ramachandran and his colleagues petitioned the University to first start a BA in Art Education, and, finally, the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) and Master of Fine Arts (MFA). These two courses finally paved the way for a separate Faculty of Fine Arts.

Painstakingly creating the structure of the courses in Fine Arts, and creating a rich art collection of eminent artists, are the biggest contributions of Ramachandran made to the University. He retired in 1992, but is today a professor emeritus with Jamia. ↓



# Honorary professor in SA

Prof Sushant G Ghosh of the CTP to teach at the University of Kwazulu-Natal

Professor Sushant G Ghosh from the Centre for Theoretical Physics (CTP), Jamia Millia Islamia, has been appointed as an Honorary Professor in the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science at the University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa for a period of three years from January 1, 2013.

Prof Ghosh has been involved in the cutting-edge research that the CTP has been conducting in the field of Theoretical Physics.

He did his Post-Doctorate in Relativity & Astrophysics from the University of Zululand, South Africa, and his PhD in Numerical Analysis from Nagpur University, Maharashtra.

He has been working on the project titled 'Black



holes, naked singularities and their formation from gravitational collapse in modified gravity'. ↓

# OUP celebrates with Jamia professor



Oxford University Press, India, celebrated its centenary year by hosting Prof M Asaduddin, Head, Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia at their showroom in Daryaganj on July 20, 2012.

Prof Asaduddin has published two books from Oxford University Press, Delhi: *Filming Fiction: Tagore, Premchand and Ray* (with Anuradha Ghosh); and *Image and Representation: Stories of Muslim Lives in India*

(with Prof Mushirul Hasan). He has also published a book from Oxford University Press, Karachi: *For Freedom's Sake: Stories and Sketches of Saadat Hasan Manto*.

Prof Asaduddin is an author, critic and translator. His work has won the Sahitya Akademi Prize and the Katha and AK Ramanujan Awards. He has lectured/ led workshops at the Universities of Delhi, Cambridge, East Anglia, Chicago, Rutgers, New York, North Carolina and Wisconsin. ↓

## Paper in leading journal

Impact of Population Density on the Surface Temperature and Micro-Climature of Delhi', a research paper by Dr Atiqur Rahman, Department of Geography, Jamia, has been published in the June 25 issue of *Current Science*. *Current Science* is India's



leading multi-disciplinary scientific journal, published by Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, since 1930.

The paper addresses the issue of increasing population and growth of the city, and its impact on land surface temperature in Delhi, using NASA data. The study has been cited in numerous national dailies and magazines, including *The Times of India*, *The Asian Age* and *Down to Earth*.



# Faculty of Engineering



This magnificent building houses the Faculty of Engineering, Jamia Millia Islamia. Its foundation stone was laid by the then Prime Minister, Late VP Singh, in September 1990 and the building was inaugurated by Late Madhavrao Scindia in October 1995. The four-storey structure has pointed arches adorning the windows. The entrance is itself pyramid-shaped.



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