

JAUHAR

Volume 03 | Issue 02 | Dec 2012 - Feb 2013

INTERNATIONAL OFFERINGS



Researchers at Jamia analyse Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Central Asia, West Asia, Europe and Latin America threadbare, as part of area study programmes

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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

As I sit down to pen my thoughts and reflections on these past three months, I realise that it has been an academically-rich period for us at Jamia. There has been a flurry of activities, with a number of conferences, seminars, talks, festivals and competitions dotting these past months at Jamia. The new premises of the Centre for North-Eastern Studies and Policy Research were inaugurated by the Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Pallam Raju. We, at Jamia, have been engaged in the systematic study of the North-East for some time now and remain committed to that end.

Besides, the newly-instituted Human Rights Cell at Jamia too has taken off the ground and has set important tasks for itself, which, I am sure, it will fulfil in days to come.

The Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology at Jamia has been making strides in its research that is sure to become a flagship programme for the University in years to come.

There have been a number of key conferences and seminars organised by the Faculty of Architecture, Department of Urdu, Department of Islamic Studies, the Centre for Information Technology and Gulf Studies Programme, among others. We also had a number of important visitors from India and abroad, who shared their expertise with us. Among these were India observer Prof Paul Brass, NASA scientist Prof Hashima Hasan and a delegation of faculty and students from the Forman Christian College, Lahore.

Besides academic engagements, Jamia has been forging ahead in the field of sports too. There was great enthusiasm around Jamia's T-20 cricket team. It reached a frenzy when Jamia played in the finals of the T-20 Toyota University Cricket Championship. Jamia's football team exceeded itself and won the Dr Zakir Husain Memorial Football competition. Jamia also organised its first inter-university festival 'Miraas', which was a huge success.

As the semester comes to a close, the students are preparing for their end-semester examinations. The students in the annual mode are already geared for their year-end examinations. I wish them all the success. Besides, we look forward to the next session, when we will have new students join Jamia. I am sure the coming academic year will be as intellectually stimulating as the previous one.

Najeeb Jung
Vice-Chancellor

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Window to the world: Leading scholars from Pakistan during a conference organised by the Academy of International Studies in Jamia

Country experts of **JAMIA**

Jamia endeavours to prepare a cadre of researchers who can help the country frame correct policies with respect to our neighbours and other nations

Existence in a globalised world puts new demands on us to understand the different geographical regions, and countries, in greater depth. Understanding another nation cannot just be from a defence or geopolitical perspective. If we are to aspire for better engagement with, say, China or Uzbekistan, it is imperative that we understand the psyche of that country's populace, for which an understanding of its history, culture, beliefs, art and literature, and media is a must. With this realisation, Jamia Millia Islamia has embarked upon a series of country-specific study programmes to prepare a cadre of experts who would fulfil the research needs of the Government and think tanks,

something which foreign service officials are perhaps not adept at doing.

Najeeb Jung, Vice Chancellor, Jamia, says that the pursuit is purely scholarly. "Our idea is that the neighbours are extremely critical to India, for us to understand. Our aim is to provide the country-expertise to the Government and think tanks on the strength of research our scholars will be doing."

The University is engaged in fostering country-specific research at various levels – through its MPhil and PhD programmes, through the books, monographs and papers its faculty are publishing, through specific projects that the faculty are involved in, and through a series of seminars and conferences.

Running these programmes are individuals drawn from both academia and the corridors of diplomacy. TCA Rangachari, the Director of the Academy of International Studies (AIS), served as India's ambassador to France, Germany and Algeria, and developed an expertise on China. Zikrur Rahman spent 25 years as a diplomat in the Arab world, and was the Indian ambassador to Palestine. It was with his deep understanding of the politics, social and tribal structures in the Arab world that he started the India Arab Cultural Centre at Jamia.

On the other hand are academics who have spent their entire careers on research. Dr Shri Prakash, Professor at the AIS, has done his MPhil from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, and PhD from Cambridge, and has published extensively on trade and globalisation, his area of specialisation. Dr Rashmi Doraiswamy, Coordinator of the Central Asia Programme, did her research in Russian language and literature at JNU. Her writings on literature and cinema have been published in prestigious Indian and foreign publications. She was the recipient of the National Award for the Best Film Critic in 1995. Prof Ajay Darshan Behera, the coordinator of the Pakistan Studies Programme, did his PhD in International Studies at JNU. He has also been a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution, Washington, DC. Dr Ravni Thakur, who has been invited from the University of Delhi (DU) to set up the China Study Programme at Jamia, has done her PhD from Leiden University. She is a Professor of Chinese Studies at the Department of East Asian Studies, DU.

How are these programmes facilitating research work in the departments? Field work and access to literature are, after all, critical to successful research. Each centre and each programme has its own set of challenges, and it's solving them in its own unique way.

The biggest challenge is before the Pakistan Studies Programme, where travel by PhD students to Pakistan is practically ruled out. But as Prof Behera says, "We subvert this problem by engaging as many scholars and experts as possible from Pakistan, by inviting them to Jamia." Through a series of seminars, the PSP has invited the who's who of Pakistan's intelligentsia, diplomacy and literary world to Jamia, including the grandson of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan Asfandiyar Wali Khan; the producer of *Ramchand Pakistani*, Javed Jabbar; academics like Farzana Sheikh, Ishtiaq Ahmed, Ayesha Siddiqi; the current Pakistani Ambassador to the US, Sherry Rehman; and more recently, the former Ambassador to the US,

Husain Haqqani. Prof Behera says that the research scholars have made use of these visits to interview the Pakistani scholars and incorporate the inputs into their dissertations. "The internet is a wonderful source of information and knowledge," he says

On the other hand is China, about which Dr Ravni Thakur says, "It's overstudied. There is excellent western academic material available." About the field visits, she says that through the linkages she has developed in China, the programme is entering into MOUs with Chinese universities to facilitate the process of Jamia students pursuing research there.

The Programmes

Pakistan Studies Programme

The Programme, set up in 2004 and recognised by the UGC in 2005, aims to promote greater understanding among scholars about Pakistan through extensive research work on the country's history, sociology, culture, literature, contemporary politics, trade and economics, geopolitics, and security and foreign policy.

Dr Mathew Joseph C, who teaches at the PSP, says the objective is to prepare indigenous expertise on Pakistan, since foreign service officials rely heavily on western expertise, which has been written from a western perspective, to serve western interests. For that matter, this is the driving force in all area-study programmes. The Programme is actively engaged in publishing research findings through its publications, networking with similar institutions engaged in the study of Pakistan, and organising reciprocal visits of scholars, writers and diplomats.

Afghanistan Studies Programme

The programme will encourage interdisciplinary research focussing on the history, sociology, contemporary politics, economics, geopolitics, security, foreign policy and also languages of Afghanistan. The activities of the programme are designed to stimulate debate in India on the politics, society, and economics of Afghanistan. While the programme structure is still being developed, a few talks have already been organised under its banner – the most recent being a talk by Deputy Ambassador of Afghanistan in India, M Ashraf Haidari, on 'Afghanistan: Transition, Peace Prospects and Regional Stability'.

Bangladesh Studies Programme

The Bangladesh Studies Programme was formally inaugurated in March 2009 by Nobel Laureate Profes-



Understanding the Arabs: Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahamed at an exhibition at the India Arab Cultural Centre

sor Muhammad Yunus, former Managing Director of Grameen Bank, Bangladesh. Professor Veena Sikri, who holds the Ford Foundation endowed Chair at Jamia, heads the Bangladesh Studies Programme.

China Studies Programme

This UGC sanctioned programme started by the AIS will focus on the study of China, its internal dynamics and external relations. Dr Ravni Thakur says the programme will take up all facets of contemporary China. "While India's approach to China is dominated by Sino-Indian relations, we need experts who understand the internal dynamics of China." Now being developed, it will offer Chinese language as a mandatory course.

Central Asia

The programme titled 'Central Asia and its Neighbourhoods: Past Ties and Future Relations' was started in 2007, following UGC approval. It's of high relevance because a) the countries that emerged out of the Soviet Union are still evolving a new identity for themselves by 'derussifying' and b) because the region is geopolitically important to the world and is also energy rich, with the superpowers of the world taking keen interest in its resources. But coordinator Dr Rashmi Doraiswamy says the programme will not just focus on polity and economy, but also on culture and society.

Among the activities of the Centre are: Publishing monographs; organising seminars and panel discus-

sions; producing documentation of material available on various aspects of Central Asia; and running research programmes. Already, scholars are researching aspects like media in Central Asia, reform movements in Central Asia, migration and social media.

The Gulf Studies Programme

The India Arab Cultural Centre (IACC) has emerged as a centre of excellence for generation of knowledge on Arab history, polity, economy, society and culture, and on India-Arab relations. It has established linkages with a number of organisations to further India-Arab civilisational dialogue, including the King Abdul Aziz Foundation, Riyadh; Institute of Diplomatic Studies, Riyadh; Gulf Studies Centre, Exeter University, UK; the Gulf Research Centre, Cambridge; and The Centre for Modern Orient, Germany. It has been designated by King Abdul Aziz Foundation as the nodal agency for its activities in South Asia. Among the projects it has embarked upon is translation of important Indian works into Arabic, and vice-versa.

The Centre's Gulf Studies Programme is a dedicated research unit for knowledge generation and dissemination, and runs PhD programmes in Gulf Studies to prepare a cadre of experts on the Arab region. The Centre is also offering a PG Diploma in Iranology.

West Asia Studies

The Centre for West Asian Studies was inaugurated in 2005 by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. The MPhil programme at the Centre takes up various aspects of the Arab world and West Asia, from films and literature to the Arab-Israel conflict and relationships with the US. At the PhD level, research scholars have taken up such themes as 'Energy Security and West Asia', 'Islam and Discourse on Democracy in West Asia' and 'New Media Technology in the Arab World and its Impact on Society'.

CELAS

The Centre for European and Latin American Studies (CELAS) has launched MPhils in European Studies and Latin American Studies. Prof Sonya Surabhi Gupta, the Founder-Director of the Centre, says: "The idea behind launching the Centre was to have a core group of researchers working on Latin America as a region. The focus of the course is not just international politics and trade relations, but an understanding of the region's societies and cultures."

'Islam shuns violence'

Minister E Ahamed says Islam is compatible with the modern universal values of life, calls modernity a false premise

These days it has become fashionable to say that Islam is in danger and is outdated. I would disagree with them. In the words of Nursi, Islam is like the inextinguishable sun. It will always shine and give life and light to all. However, this life and light is not for those who ... chose darkness over light."

E Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, said this at Jamia Millia Islamia on February 7. He was delivering the Presidential remarks at a three-day conference on 'Islam and Modernity: The Perspective of Bediuz-zaman Said Nursi', organised by Zakir Husain Institute of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, in collaboration with Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture, Turkey.

To those who are spreading Islamophobia, he said, "Their Islamophobia will never win. Islam has nothing to do with it. Islam is a peaceful doctrine and there is no place for violence in it. "If anyone killed an innocent person, it will be as if he killed the whole mankind. And if anyone saved a life, it will be as if he saved the life of whole mankind."

Addressing the question being raised in the conference, as to whether modernity and Islam can co-exist, He said, "The concept of modernity itself is a wrong premise to start with. What is modern today



Faith in the Faith: Ministers E Ahamed (third from left); K Rahman Khan (fifth from left) and Tariq Anwar (extreme right) with other dignitaries on the occasion

may seem outdated tomorrow. In spite of all the technological advances that the human race will make, there are certain human values which are constant. Which are transcendental in nature. Which form the core of human value system. We must judge Islam vis-a-vis these core values."

Tariq Anwar, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, was the chief guest, while K Rahman Khan, Union Minister for Minority Affairs, inaugurated the seminar.

Human Rights Cell at Jamia

Jamia Millia Islamia has established a Human Rights Cell on its campus, which shall work on an on-going basis to advance the cause of human rights and justice in India.

Typical activities shall include the development and utilisation of web-based technologies to advance human rights; conferences, roundtable discussions, and speakers' series focused on developing a breakthrough understanding of particular human rights challenges; and field research in conflict and post-conflict societies.

The Cell's core mission would include three

programmes i) clinical programmes ii) research programmes and iii) public programmes.

Clinical programmes: The cell will conduct on-the-ground investigations of human rights abuses, find documents, and advocate before courts, federal, state and local governments, and the media.

Research programmes: Various centres and departments at Jamia Millia Islamia could jointly conduct research, training and mentorship to examine various facets of human rights.

Public programmes: There will be regular seminars, workshops, lectures and film screenings.

North-eastern focus

Union HRD Minister inaugurates the new premises of the Centre for North-Eastern Studies and Policy Research; lauds the Centre for mainstreaming the region's issues



An opening to the North-east: Jamia VC Najeeb Jung (second from left), HRD Minister M Pallam Raju (centre) and Centre Director Sanjoy Hazarika (right)

Union Minister for Human Resource Development M Pallam Raju recently inaugurated the new premises of the four-year-old Centre for North-Eastern Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia. Raju expressed happiness at the Central University trying to mainstream the social and political issues that the people of North-east face.

The Centre will 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 and have a research programme on each state.

Besides offering research programmes, the Centre plans to engage the public on pressing issues of the region through a series of seminars. The Centre has already organised seminars on the situation in Assam and the role of the North-east in the Independence Movement, among others. ↓

'Terrorism is our problem'

Senior Pakistani diplomat Husain Haqqani calls upon India, Pakistan to discard the old prism

India looks at Pakistan through the prism of Partition, while Pakistan views India through the prism of existential threat. But if US and Canada, Germany and France can learn to co-exist despite old disputes, so can India and Pakistan, felt former Pakistan ambassador to the US, Husain Haqqani. He was speaking on the theme 'Pakistan's Democracy: Vision and Reality', an event organised by the Academy of Third World Studies.

While lauding Indian success in democracy, he noted, "We were not so lucky." He said he was not opposed to the army, but he wanted that the army should focus on defending frontiers rather than dictating policies inside the country. He also lamented that the political discourse in his country had been made narrow because of an authoritarian legacy. "It's the security establishment which is deciding what is national interest."

The biggest problem emanating from military rule, he said, had been the nurturing of Jehadi groups by the authoritarian regime, he rued, and added, "The monsters created for the region are devouring more Pakistanis."

Referring to the treatment meted to him in Pakistan, he said, "Mature nations do not define people with different opinions as being disloyal to State."

He repeated what many Pakistani speakers have said before – that there had been more terror attacks inside Pakistan than India, and said, "Terrorism is our problem. It is for us to solve this problem through a democratic process."

While he criticised the judiciary for addressing issues which do not fall in its purview, he reposed great faith in people's discretion, and said, "The only guides of democracy are people, not judges, not generals, and not opinionated journalists." ↓

The T-20 moment

Jamia reaches the final of Toyota University Cricket Championship; the event, with the help of MHRD, NDTV, AIU and BCCI, generates great enthusiasm among students

Jamia Millia Islamia's cricket team reached the final of the Toyota University Cricket Championship (UCC) in the T20 format. In the final played on March 11, the 'Northern Stars' of Jamia lost to 'Southern Champs' of Jain University, Bengaluru, by two runs.

The Championship was an endeavour of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, and TV channel NDTV to encourage cricket at the University level. The initiative is backed by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and also has the support of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan.

An extension of the all-India inter-university Rohinton Baria Tournament, TUCC featured the top eight university teams for the T20 league and the Jamia team was among them.

Encouraging the players at the Jamia Sports Complex during the championship were ministers Salman Khurshid and Shashi Tharoor. During the final match saw Union Minister Kapil Sibal, and cricket stars Kapil Dev, Virender Sehwag and Mahela Jayawardene (of Sri Lanka). ↓



A perfect pitch: (Top) Union Minister Kapil Sibal (second from left) and cricketer Kapil Dev (third from left) at the final match; (Above) Northern Stars of Jamia after winning their first match

Technology pervades learning

The FTK-Centre for Information Technology (FTK-CIT), Jamia Millia Islamia, organised a workshop on 'Modernisation of Learning Environment in Higher Education' on January 18-19, 2013.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof SM Rashid, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, JMI, and was attended by the Deans, Heads of the Departments, Directors of Centres and faculty members of the University.

Prof Zahid H Khan, Honorary Director, FTK-CIT, and chairperson of the workshop, discussed the 21st century challenges of higher education like increasing demand for higher education, exponen-

tial growth of knowledge, financing and quality of education, shortage of skilled faculty, constraints of time and space, etc. Prof Khan also briefly discussed the growth of ICT in Jamia, particularly during the last three years, which included 1 Gbps Internet bandwidth from National Knowledge Network (NKN), upgradation of MIS servers, expansion of the campus-wide network with 6,500 plus nodes, and a new dynamic portal of the University.

During the various technical sessions, themes like 'Google Apps – Tools for Academic Coordination and Collaboration', 'Content Management System and Virtual Classrooms', 'Google Apps' and 'Adobe Connect' were taken up. ↓

Architecture for masses

A seminar by the Faculty of Architecture and Ekistics takes up the issue of Master Plan



'Building blocks' of a better India: Panelists at the seminar on Architecture for Masses

Architecture Pedagogy, Building Construction, Ekistics, Medical Architecture, Recreational Architecture and Urban Regeneration. The seminar aimed to develop a better understanding of these emerging disciplines uniquely offered by Jamia.

Present at the event were personalities such as SS Yadav, Commissioner, East Delhi Municipal Corporation; Prof Jamal H Ansari, eminent planner and educator; and Prof AGK Menon, architect and academic. Prof Menon talked about the problems faced during the formation and implementation of the Master Plan of Delhi. He also discussed how the present Master Plan was an improvement as compared to its predecessors.

Students who had won awards in different national and international competitions were honoured by the Pro-VC SM Rashid.

The Faculty also organised an exhibition showcasing work of the students of BArch and MArch in the construction yard. Entries of Jamia students in national competitions in the past year were displayed, as were thesis works from the session 2012-13 and the studio work done by the six streams of MArch and BArch.

The Faculty of Architecture and Ekistics hosted the Fifth National Seminar on 'Architecture for Masses' on February 13-14, 2013. The focus of the AFM this year was on themes based on the six Masters' courses offered by the Faculty of Architecture and Ekistics, namely

VC on board

NAJEEB JUNG, Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, has been nominated to the National Institute of Disaster Management as a Member.

The National Institute of Disaster Management is a premier institute for training and capacity development programmes for managing natural disasters in India, on a national as well as regional basis.

The institute was established as The National Centre of Disaster Management in 1995 and renamed in 2006.

Why the Gulf is important to us

There are six million Indians working in the Gulf. The Emirates is among our largest trading partners. But India is equally important to the Gulf, for how would the Gulf have progressed without the workforce from India, wondered Ambassador CR Gharekhan, Former Assistant Secretary General, the UN, and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister for the West Asia and Middle East Peace Process, at a Gulf Studies seminar in January end, organised by the India Arab Cultural Centre, Jamia.

Gharekhan also discussed the Arab Spring, and wondered whether, in the region, winter is setting in. "I have been optimistic about the Egyptian movement for democracy. Americans were not involved, and it was a genuine people's movement. Now I am not so sure myself," said Gharekhan.

Prof Tim Niblock, expert in Gulf Studies at the University of Exeter, was the keynote speaker and he spoke on 'Shift to the East? Gulf Responses to a Transformed Global Order and a Divisive Regional Environment'.

Cycle to spread awareness

Jamia organises a cycle expedition to spread the message 'Save Water Save Earth'



A Himalayan responsibility: Members of the cycling expedition, who cycled down from Himachal Pradesh

Jamia Millia Islamia organised a cycle expedition to spread the message 'Save Water Save Earth'. The rally was organised in association with NSS, NCC and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports with the support of the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, Government of Himachal Pradesh. The rally was flagged off by Veer Bhadra Singh, Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, on February 20 and received by Nita Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, at Jamia on February 27.

A group of 26 students (20 boys and 6 girls) and 13 staff members participated in the rally, covering 452 km through Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. The rally was led by Major (Dr) NU Khan, Programme Coordinator NSS & NCC Officer and Professor-HRM, Department of Social work. Dr Abid Husain, Programme Officer, NSS, and Assistant Director, Centre for Distance and Open Learning, Jamia, coordinated the event.

A Space 'probe' at Jamia

THE FTK-CENTRE for Information Technology and the Centre for Theoretical Physics, Jamia Millia Islamia, jointly organised a talk by Dr Hashima Hasan, Programme Scientist, James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), and Education and Public Outreach Lead for Astrophysics at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

In her role as Programme Scientist, Dr Hasan is responsible for monitoring and managing the science programme for the Webb Telescope.

Dr Hasan has been the programme scientist for many of NASA missions, such as the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, Gravity and Extreme Magnetism SMEX (GEMS), Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, Hubble Space Telescope, Explorer Programme and more.

The JWST Mission, whose launch is scheduled in 2018, is an orbiting infrared observatory that will complement and extend the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope, with longer wavelength coverage and greatly improved sensitivity. The longer wavelengths enable the Webb telescope to look much closer to the beginning of time and to hunt for the unobserved formation of the first galaxies, as well as look inside dust clouds where stars and planetary systems are forming today.

The stem cell promise

THE FACULTY of Dentistry, Jamia Millia Islamia, organised a programme titled 'The Promise of Stem Cells - Application and Future' on January 30.

Dr Sujata Mohanty, Associate Professor, Stem Cell Facility, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, spoke on this theme, while Dr Tarun Giroti, a practitioner, talked about the potential of dental stem cells.

The programme was attended by academics and members of the dental fraternity within and outside Jamia, and a large number of students.

Great loss

THREE STUDENTS of the Faculty of Engineering & Technology, Tabish Bakri, Dilshad Alam and Mohd. Zeeshan, met a tragic end in an accident during an NCC Camp at Kerala.

The three drowned in the Periyar river at the remote village of Malayattoor in Ernakulam district of the state, while they were participating in a National Level NCC camp in December.

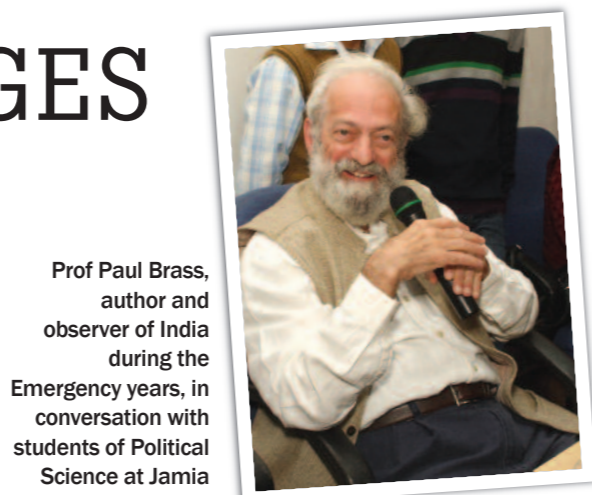
Jamia organised a condolence meeting to grieve their loss, which was attended by faculty, administrative staff and students of the university.

JAMIA IN IMAGES

There's been a flurry of activity on the Jamia campus — cultural dos, seminars, high-profile visits, protests and much more. Glimpses of some of these on-campus activities



Western music competition at the inter-university cultural festival *Miraas*, which saw competitions in one-act plays, mimicry, pot-making, poetry, management case studies and other segments



Prof Paul Brass, author and observer of India during the Emergency years, in conversation with students of Political Science at Jamia



Pro Vice-Chancellor SM Rashid inaugurates an exhibition of books in Hindi and Urdu, organised by the Dr Zakir Husain Library



Students and faculty of Forman Christian College, Lahore, visit the Jamia campus and interact with students during their India visit in February



Jamia's football team, winner of Dr Zakir Husain Memorial Football Tournament, 2013, in victory mode



In the wake of the brutal rape incident in Delhi, students participate in a Peace Walk on the Jamia campus, pledging 'Zero Tolerance against Sexual Violence'



Jamia's horticulture department organises a flower show on the lawns of Ansari Auditorium on February 28



Nano material, big dreams

The Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology at Jamia is at the forefront of some pathbreaking research works, which could change our lives for the better

A very sophisticated and advanced process machine has been installed in the laboratory of Jamia Millia Islamia for carrying out applied research in the area of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. The technology developed through this equipment has the potential to change the way we live. This is the single wall carbon nanotube synthesis facility, which was recently inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor at the Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. The technology development programme was sponsored by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, at a funding of ₹3.81 crore. This is the first facility of its type anywhere in the country.

The end product of this process, the single wall carbon nanotube, is a fraction of the weight of steel,

but is hundred times stronger than steel. It is envisaged that its application in medicine, energy conservation, electronics and security systems can radically alter our lives.

As such, research in Nanotechnology can change the way of treatments will be done in future, maximising the effectiveness and minimising the side effects of medicine; it can enhance energy efficiency of our devices and cut down our electricity bills; it can help our homes become steadier, it can drastically improve water and air purification mechanisms and it can even protect our national boundaries, through better surveillance mechanisms.

Scientists from Jamia, realising the potential of carbon nanotubes and nanomaterials, have set their sight on creating a leading research facility in



The World goes Nano: (Above and previous page) Researchers at the single wall carbon nanotube synthesiser

Nanotechnology since 2001. These experts have been drawn from various disciplines of sciences – Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Engineering, Maths and even Computer Sciences. A number of seminars have been organised over the last one decade, and an MTech programme was started in 2007. The University has been getting funding from organisations like DRDO and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology to set up state-of-the-art labs.

It was only a logical culmination of these efforts that Jamia created the Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology in December 2011, once the University Grants Commission accepted the project proposal of Jamia, worth ₹30 crore. Out of this, ₹10 crore has already been received.

A major part of the funding is being spent on high-end process and characterization equipment. At the same time, a multidisciplinary faculty drawn from within the university and other organisations like the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is being developed.

Prof Mushahid Husain, Director of the Centre, informed that the Centre is entering into collaboration with institutions in the US, Germany, South Korea, and with National Physical Laboratory, IIT Delhi and other institutions in the country, to foster exchange of ideas. Dr SB Qadri, US Naval Research Lab, Washington; Prof Vikram Kumar, Ex-Director, National Physical Laboratory; and Dr Krishan Lal, President, INSA, are among the main mentors to this programme. Dr Husain himself has done his MSc Physics (Electronics) and PhD in Solid State Physics. He is a professor at the Department of Physics.

Dr Harsh, earlier associated with the DRDO Nanoelectronics Programme and currently visiting professor at the centre, says that the laboratory is on its way to becoming the best facility for nano research in the country. Already, young research scholars are being drawn to the research programme. Shama Parveen, who has done her MTech in Nanotechnology from Jamia, and Avshish Kumar are pursuing their PhD in Synthesis and Characterization of Carbon Nano Tube for Device Applications. Shama describes, “Our research will help to reduce the size and drastically improve the quality of display devices in comparison to current LCDs displays. With this technology, the device can be operated at a low voltage.”

Ranu Pal, who has done her postgraduation in Physics from Agra University, is now pursuing MTech in Nanotechnology from the Centre, and is learning technology that can help to fabricate a wash-free, wrinkle-free and dust-free fabric. The reason she gives is, “Since nano particles are used in the creation of the fabric, the dust particles can’t stick to them.” The same principle applies to nano-paints for homes, on which dust can’t stick.

Her classmate Chaudhary Mahfooz Alam, who has graduated from UP Technical University, Lucknow, is learning the nano applications in electronics, like nano antenna.

Students who have successfully completed the course are placed as scientists or engineers at institutions like the University of Kaiserslautern, Germany; Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore; IITs; and the National Physical Laboratory. ↓

The India factor

What career aspirations do international students at Jamia have, and how do their courses at the University help them achieve their goals in their home countries?

Fazel Haq Alamyar, Afghanistan Bachelor of Business Studies

A SELF-FINANCED student of BBS final semester, Fazel got an insight about Jamia from his elder brother, who is doing MA Economics at the University. Fazel plans to follow up BBS with MA in Public Administration and says, “There is a relation between business and politics and my country needs both of them.” While Fazel’s father runs a business in cosmetics, the son’s plan is to get a government job, wherein an

understanding of business and administration will help him not just crack the entrance exam in his country, but also to make a mark while on the job. The business of studies aside, Fazel spends spare time playing football at the sports facility in Jamia, where, he says, there is a separate football team of Afghan students. Cricket is another passion, reflecting the increasing popularity of the sport in his country.

Hem Sinath, Cambodia MA Public Administration

A GRADUATE IN Business Administration from Cambodia, Hem lapped up the chance to study Public Administration in India because his career goal is to take up a government job back in his country. However, he is aware that the thrust of what is being taught in India might be different from what might be required in his home country. There’s another difficulty. “I find English very difficult. It is by reading prescribed books that I have been able to understand what is being taught in the class,” says this IVth semester student.

Maryam Hekmat, Iran Master of Fine Arts

THIS STUDENT of Master of Fine Arts (Art History), did her major in film direction at the Graduation level in Iran. She has made short films like *Old Tehran*, portraying Tehran as it existed 150 years ago. Her reason behind coming to India is to understand this country’s art forms and their history – sculpture, painting, etc. “There is so much history here. And there are also influences of one country’s art forms on another,” she says. On the wish list while in India is a visit to the Ajanta, while Agra, Shimla, Chandigarh and Aligarh have already been covered.

Helen Uzoma Ayanuri, Nigeria PhD in Law

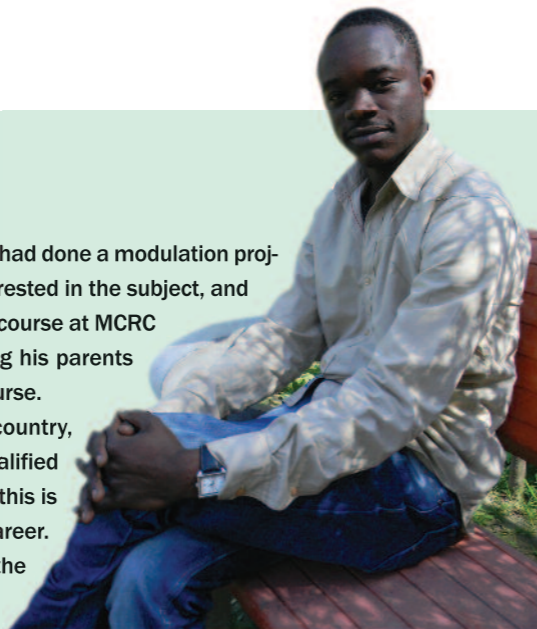
HAVING DONE her LLM from Amity University, Helen is now specialising in patent laws – a comparative study between India and Nigeria. Studying Indian laws is not a far-fetched idea, she says. Due to the British legacy, both India and Nigeria have a similar legal structure, except the customary laws. The research work in patents, she feels, will help her plans to set up an NGO back in Nigeria, where she intends to work on HIV.



Alain Sawa Sawa, DR Congo
PG Diploma in Broadcast Technology

TOWARDS THE end of his BSc Physics course in his country, Alain had done a modulation project which was related to Broadcast Technology. This got him interested in the subject, and he browsed the net to look at the study options. The PG Diploma course at MCRC in Jamia featured prominently in the internet search. Convincing his parents about the need to study in India, Alain set out to apply for the course.

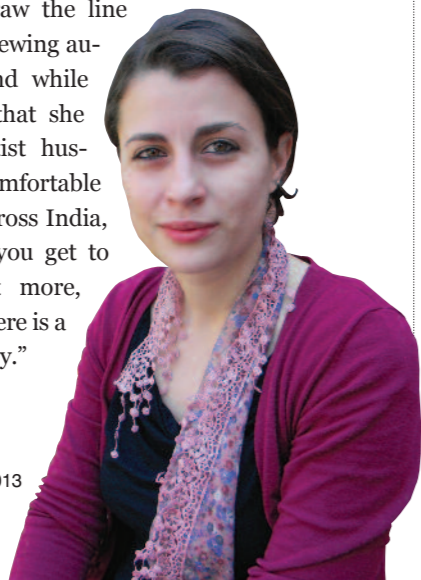
Calling himself a first generation learner in this field in his country, Alain feels that media technology is open for exploration for qualified individuals. The infrastructure, including studios, is nascent, and this is where a course like Broadcast Technology can help him build a career. Of course, his immediate plan is to appear for job interviews at the end of the course, to gain field experience in India.



Denise Ripamonti, Italy
MPhil International Studies

THIS ICCR scholar's 'affair' with India started in 2001, when she joined a BA programme in Linguistics and Cultural Mediation at the Faculty of Political Science at the Milan University. She chose Hindi as the specialisation language in this course, which meant that she got to study Indian philosophy, religion and history too in greater detail. India thus became a means to understand South Asia as a whole. She followed it up with a Master's in Languages and Culture for International Communication. During her Graduation and Post-graduation, she made four visits to India, and on three of these visits, she stayed at Benaras for 4-6 months to study Hindi. She then studied at Jadhavpur University as a visiting student for one year.

The present course in MPhil at Jamia's Academy of International Studies will only strengthen her case as an expert in South Asian Studies. While her MPhil specialisation area 'Nature of Indian State and its Relationship to Ideological Violence', focussing on Naxalism, is a challenging topic, Denise knows where to draw the line while interviewing authorities. And while she knows that she and her artist husband are comfortable travelling across India, "Everytime you get to know a bit more, everytime there is a new discovery."



Muna Mohammed, Iraq
PhD in Education

HAVING DONE a Master of Teaching English as a Foreign Language in Babylon, Muna taught the language at Babylon University. But as she says, "I have knowledge of English, but the method of teaching is also important, and I wanted to learn the best methods. Thus I felt the need for research in Education." The question was, which country to head to for a Doctorate. India emerged as the natural choice, on account of cultural proximity. "Thanks to your movies, I had loved India since childhood." Jamia provided an added comfort factor, due to a large Muslim population.

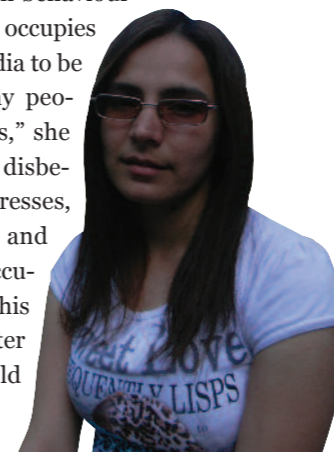
Having already completed her MPhil at the Faculty of Education at Jamia, Muna is now pursuing her PhD here. The biggest benefit that has come during her research work is her exposure to primary education, so much so that this university lecturer now wants to open her own school when she returns home.



Dunya Akgayeva, Turkmenistan
MA Psychology

HER NAME means 'world', just as in Hindi and Urdu. And Dunya has seen a world of diversity in India. Like every Turkmen, visiting India was a dream for this teacher of English, so when the ICCR scholarship to study Psychology came up, she didn't hesitate in changing her subject area. Once in Jamia, she knew she had made the right career switch, though she will now have to follow it up with an allied study area like management or clinical behaviour or human relations.

Observing human behaviour is just one task that occupies her. There's also India to be observed. "So many people... Such big trees," she shakes her head in disbelief. Indian dresses, biryani, paneer and fried rice are also occupying the mind of this spirited youngster from a land of cold desert.



Younes Charbgo, Iran
PhD in International Law

HAVING DONE a Bachelor of Law and Master of Art in International Law, Younes Charbgo wanted to follow up with a Doctorate. While trying to figure out which country he should choose for his PhD, Charbgo felt that India was close to Iran in terms of culture. The comfort factor weighed heavily in favour of India. And feedback from friends helped him zero in on Jamia, where Charbgo is now pursuing a PhD in International Law.

With his goal of working in an international organisation like the UN, Charbgo is getting inputs at Jamia that he had been seeking. "Since I am specialising in international law, it's not just about Indian law, it's about international conventions," he notes. Also on the agenda is to help his wife secure admission to a Computer Science course in the University.



NEW! INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL, NEW DELHI

IT GIVES US great pleasure to establish the International Summer School, New Delhi, at the Jamia Millia Islamia under the banner of the Ministry of Tourism's acclaimed Incredible India campaign. Its purpose is to promote international goodwill and cultural understanding among tomorrow's world leaders as they learn about India and its role in the twenty first century.

An India-centric syllabus has been designed by the University to focus on the complex realities as well as the immense potential of contemporary India. This syllabus comprises of the following undergraduate level course modules: (i) Indian Politics; (ii) the Indian Economy; (iii) Indian Sociology; (iv) Indian History; and (v) a Fieldwork module for which students would document their volunteer experience with Ritinjali, an NGO that has been involved in numerous community development initiatives across the country. All efforts would be made to facilitate the transfer of credits for students who are attending the programme from other institutions.

The inaugural session will be taking place this year from Sunday, June 16 to Friday, July 26, 2013. For more information about the programme, please visit www.issnewdelhi.in.





It pays to be attentive

A sound understanding of light and speed helps Zakir Hussain win an all-India photography prize

Zakir Hussain, a Master of Fine Arts student, learnt the basics of photography as part of the course. What are the principles of light, how to control the light in your photograph, was something he learnt in the class. With his Nikon D5000, he diligently put those principles to practice on a daily basis, on the way to the faculty, taking random photographs. But when the Vivekanand Youth Festival was announced by the Association of Indian Universities, with competitions in various creative fields, it was Zakir's teachers who had to push him into filling the form.

The competition, held in Kolkata, was of two hours, during which the contestants had to take photographs of the surrounding area. A total of five photographs had to be submitted. Nature lover that he is, Zakir came up with some beautiful compositions, and was adjudged the best entry in the competition.

Though not keen to become a photographer per



A photo-sensitive person: Zakir (left) and his composition at the competition

se, Zakir is devoting much time watching works of famous artists, and has got a grip of what constitutes an effective composition. **J**

A first for an Indian

MRIDUL KUMAR Upadhyay has been awarded \$2,000 by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Foundation Scholarship (ASME), New York. ASME is a not-for-profit organisation that enables collaboration, knowledge-sharing, career-enrichment, and skills-development across all engineering disciplines.

Mridul did his BTech in Mechanical Engineering from Jamia in 2012. He has been awarded this scholarship for his combined intensive honours curriculum with regular voluntary work as a student in Jamia and he is the first Indian student to win this scholarship.

Creativity journey, culinary ambitions

BCom student Maisara Khan recently won ₹100,000 in a debate competition organised by the IIPM, New Delhi. The theme in the preliminary round was 'Facebook and Google Have Changed Us', and in the final, 'Does



Man Have the Ability to Exercise Freedom?' She was ranked at the top in the competition. In creative writing too, she got the first prize, receiving ₹1,500, while in the one-minute speech competition, she stood second, receiving ₹7,000.

Daughter of a businessman, Maisara is an alumna of City Montessori School, Lucknow. She took avid interest in literature, debating and speeches and was elected the headgirl twice. Why this switch-over from creativity to commerce? She says, "My career aim is to do an MBA and open my own restaurant." Let the creative juices continue to flow. **J**

A 'she-roes' man

MA English student Aamir Qayoom Wani was selected to speak at a round table conference of student representatives, young journalists and bloggers at the American Embassy in New Delhi on February 7. The topic was 'Demographic Dividend – How Youth View their Future in the New India', with an emphasis on the role of women in Indian society. The event was chaired by US Undersecretary Tara Sunenshine.

At the event, Aamir mooted the idea of 'she-roes', and said that like heroes, 'she-roes' need to be idolised. He said the need is to challenge our own patriarchal thoughts at a personal level.

An avid literature fan coming from a literary family in Jammu & Kashmir, Aamir discloses that he has scribbled famous lines from English fiction all over his room. He has seen movies pertaining to



All for equality: Aamir Qayoom (circled) with other speakers at the event at the US Embassy in New Delhi

every fiction work he has read. And he has won numerous awards in literary and debating in his state and at Jamia, including at the recently-organised Pickwick Fest. **J**

Picture perfect

Jamia Millia Islamia has been named as one of the 10 finalists for the prestigious Sony World Photography Awards Student Focus competition, the world's largest student photography programme and award.

Anshul Mehrotra's image 'Over the Top' captures the celebrations of the *Chhath Puja*, an ancient festival dedicated to the healing energies of the Sun God Surya. This image was chosen to represent Jamia at the 2013 Sony World Photography Awards.

This image beat entries from over 230 universities worldwide to be named as one of 10 finalists for the Student Focus award. Jamia will now compete against the nine other finalists from as far apart as New Zealand and Argentina, to win the overall Student Focus title and €35,000 worth of Sony digital imaging equipment. The image will be shown as part of the 2013 Sony World Photography Awards Exhibition at the famous Somerset House, London, from April 26 to May 12. It will also be published in the 2013 edition of the annual Sony World Photography Awards book. **J**

In the Judicial Service

Nabeela Wali, who did her BA-LLB (2011) and is in the final semester of LLM at the Law Faculty of Jamia, has secured 14th position in the Delhi Judicial Service this year. She was keen to join the judicial service "on account of the sense of responsibility that is attached to the post both by the legal system and the society at large, to undo what is wrong and to uphold what is right." **J**

MCRC students at the IFFI

FILMS MADE by seven groups of final year students of the AJK-Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC) were screened at the 43rd International Film Festival of India held in Goa from November 20 to 30, 2012. The seven short films, ranging in duration from 13 minutes to 32 minutes, were screened on November 21 and 26.

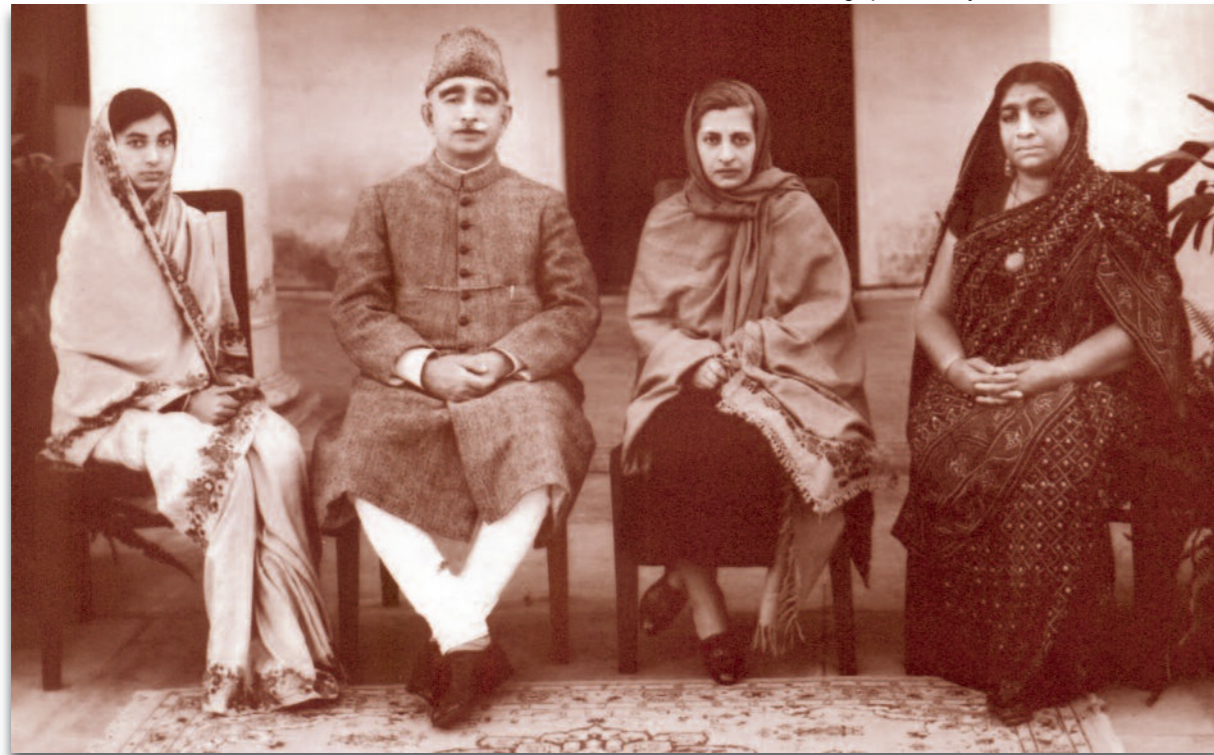
These young and budding filmmakers from Jamia were felicitated by Festival Director Shankar Mohan during the inauguration of the event. The films that were screened are *Boot-Joota*, *Paridhi*, *Dhoomil*, *Mehta-Mahatta*, *Hari ki Meera*, *When the Trains Ran on Time*, and *Circles of Sounds*.

Anannya Banerjee, the maker of *Paridhi*, said, "It really was an honour to watch not only my own film, but all of ours on the big screen."

The footprints of women

Jamia had two prominent women visitors in the 1930s. One came as a keen observer, the other settled down as its foot soldier

Photographs courtesy Jamia's Premchand Archives



Attraction of the East: Halide Edib (second from right) with MA Ansari during her stay in Delhi

Halide Edib was a prominent figure in Turkey during the tumultuous early decades of the 20th Century. This Gateway to the West was witnessing the weakening of the Caliphate and was under increasing assault of the Western colonial powers. In this context, questions of modernity were sought to be addressed by intellectuals of the time, Halide Edib being a leading light among them.

A political activist, an educationist, a women's rights champion and an author of many books, Edib stirred the conscience of a society at the crossroads. In fact, touched by the sufferings of soldiers in the Balkan War, she even worked as a nurse for many months. All these dimensions of Edib's activities should not be understood in separation. As M Mujeeb, key educationist of Jamia and later its Vice-Chancellor, notes, "Khaleda Khanam (as she was

known) had taken to writing and teaching as a national obligation" (*Khaleda Edib Khanam*, by M Mujeeb, *Jamia Risala*, March 1935).

India figured only distantly in Edib's world. She had met members of the Indian Medical Mission to Turkey in 1912, led by nationalist MA Ansari, and she had met Zakir Husain, M Mujeeb and Abid Husain, the three future torch bearers of Jamia, when they were pursuing their PhD in Germany in the early Twenties. When she was invited to Jamia to give a series of lectures in 1935, Edib used this as an opportunity to understand the country better.

She also utilised the journey through India to understand how another nation was seeking to address the tussle between modernity and tradition; how, in a pluralistic society, different religions co-exist; and if Islam across the world was compatible with modernity. In this quest, her visit to Jamia was of

much relevance. While she stayed at MA Ansari's house during her Delhi visit, she keenly observed Jamia's functioning and its multi-cultural ethos.

As historian Mushirul Hasan describes in the book *Between Modernity and Nationalism: Halide Edib's Encounter with Gandhi's India*, the evidence of compatibility of Islam and modernity found "visible expression" in the Jamia campus. "She understood that faith is what gave meaning to the lives of Munich-educated Zakir Husain, on the one hand, and the madarsa-trained Maulana Aslam Jairajpuri, on the other," he writes, and quotes Edib, "One must study the Jamia if one wishes to grasp the forces at work in India."

During her visit to Jamia (this would have been at Karol Bagh, and not at the present campus of the University, since the famous lecture series also happened in Karol Bagh), Edib even observed how individual teachers were teaching. Hasan writes, "Halide was impressed with the Jamia teachers. She found them engaged in shaping their classes into communities that emphasised friendship, kindness and tolerance." In her book *Inside India*, Edib describes how AJ Kellat, a teacher from Kerala, attacked caste identity, and in fact any symbol of identity, including the Gandhian caps. "In his mind they are signals of a new caste... Gandhi Caste. But the students who have donned the caps of their own free will listen courteously, but stick to their caps. There is a mixture of maturity, tolerance and freedom of youth which only such a type of training and education can confer on youth," Edib writes about Jamia.

In praise of Gerda 'Apa'

One person's whom Edib praised was Gerda Philipsborne, a German Jew who befriended Zakir Husain and M Mujeeb during their German stay. Philipsborne had met this group of Indian scholars at the home of Sarojini Naidu's younger sister Mrs Nambiar, and had helped them understand the German life, taking them to concerts, operas, plays, art exhibitions and schools. In December 1932, she came to India because conditions in her home country were becoming increasingly hostile for the Jews. In his book *Dr Zakir Husain – A Biography*, Mujeeb notes, "Now that she had come, what was she to do? She



The Apa at Jamia: Gerda Philipsborne

had some competence in the field of pre-primary education, for which no proper arrangements had yet been made in the Jamia. She was, therefore, attached to the Primary School and hostel for the smallest children."

Mushirul Hasan writes, "With Gerda Philipsborne's arrival in December 1931 and her joining the Primary School, Jamia took the first step forward towards becoming a full-fledged co-educational institution." And just four years into Jamia, she had created a space for herself in the institu-

tion, so much so that the Turkish visitor Edib described her as a 'Charming German woman to whose ability a lot of success in the training of the little ones is due.'

During the World War II, Philipsborne, who had

"With Gerda Philipsborne's arrival in December 1931... Jamia took the first step forward towards becoming a full-fledged co-educational institution."

come to be known as *Apa* in Jamia, was interned by the British, but after her release, continued to work with full zest for Jamia, despite failing health.

The lecture series

The lecture series by Halide Edib was attended by leading national figures of the time, including Sarojini Naidu, C Rajagopalachari and Aruna Asaf Ali. One of the sessions was chaired by Gandhi ji. The lecture themes were 'Ottoman Turks as State Builders'; 'The Decline of the Ottomans'; 'Revolution and War'; 'The Turkish Republic'; 'Literature and Culture-I'; 'Turkish Women'; and 'Review and Future Outlook'.

She discussed the cultures of the East and West, and argued that while the West's problem was its materialism, East's problem was the other end of spirituality and otherworldliness. In the true questioning spirit of an academic institution, the Jamia fraternity and the other visitors put this premise of hers to close scrutiny too. ↓

Many hats, one mission

A Jamia teacher who saw the University developing to become what it is today

Mujeeb Rizvi joined Jamia 'College', as a Hindi lecturer in October 1962, when the College was coming to terms with the realities of Independent India. Jamia, in its earlier years under Zakir Husain, considered itself a nursery of Gandhian experiments in education and held the belief that in an Independent India its system of education will be adopted across the country. But after Independence, just like other pet projects of Mahatma Gandhi, his educational philosophy too was given a go-by and the country continued with British institutions. In such a situation, explains Rizvi, Jamia's philosophy had lost its relevance, though the institution was very dear to Pandit Nehru and he genuinely wanted it to thrive. Rizvi debunks the idea that Jamia was marginalised because it was an institution with a predominantly Muslim population.

Rizvi describes the travails that the College had to go through in the years following his joining. There were just seven teachers in the College, two of whom taught *Islamiyat* (a study of Islamic philosophy) and two taught Urdu. The remaining three had to do multiple chores. So this Hindi teacher got increasingly involved in the teaching of history, along with Vice-Chancellor M Mujeeb.

In the true spirit of Jamia, the teachers were always coming up with ideas for the benefit of students. The only condition was that the one who came up with the idea had to implement it. So

when Rizvi came up with the idea of starting NCC in Jamia College, he was asked to get trained as an NCC trainer. Some old students still recount to him how they felt wearing the NCC uniform for the first time. "We helped them come out of their shell. This can be said to be one of the contributions of Jamia. Many of them are senior professors now, even in Universities like Chicago," Rizvi proudly says.

The struggle of the College also extended to attracting students, given the tough competition from the University of Delhi. Rizvi describes how, during these years, the college embarked upon an expansionist drive. The idea of rural institutes had been mooted by the Government and Jamia was offered a role in this, which it accepted. "We even lapped up general education, when its popularity picked up in the country, though the number of teachers remained the same," says Rizvi, and describes that he took 42 periods per week, including teaching Hinduism, Buddhism, Russian Revolution and French Revolution.

At the same time, efforts were also being made at the Government level to improve the condition of the College, and a committee appointed by the Government recommended 'deemed-to-be-university' status for Jamia. Another committee, headed by Nurul Hasan in 1971, gave Jamia the right to start PG courses. Other developments followed, like positions like professor and reader, launching of Honours courses, starting of Science stream, and, much later, establishment of the Engineering Faculty, MCRC, etc. The statue of Ghalib was installed at the insistence of then VC M Mujeeb, primarily to challenge "*but-parasti*" (iconoclasm).

Rizvi recognises that each individual in Jamia during those years was capable of getting a higher salary, but Jamia acted as a glue because it gave each individual due importance. "In any other university you are a small component. Here I found everyone, irrespective of the role he performed, being addressed as 'saab'."

Rizvi, father of noted film-maker Anusha Rizvi, is well aware of the "*chamak-damak*" Jamia has acquired now. However, he can take pride in being an important building block of the institution.

Thoughts on equality

At the Jaipur Literary Fest, author Ajay Navaria came up with his solutions for an equal, progressive Indian society

At the Jaipur Literary Festival in January end, one author who made a mark with his thoughts on contemporary Indian society was Ajay Navaria, who teaches at the Hindi Department of Jamia. Speaking during the session 'God as a Political Philosopher' on the Tata Steel Front lawns of the Diggi Palace, he countered Kancha Ilaiah's views that conversion can solve the problems of the deprived. Though in theory all religions may be good, but the deprived sections have not been able to shed their caste identity even after conversion. What we need is



'Lok Rajya', ie democracy, he said.

In the Metropolitan session, he argued that the present-day rural social structure, which does not give youth the space to take decisions for themselves, should be destroyed. Acclaimed author Jeet Thayil was a co-panelist in the session.

Navaria, who has emerged as a strong voice of the underprivileged sections through his books and articles, has penned *Udhar ke Log* (Hindi) *Unclaimed Terrain* (Translated into English by Laura Brueck), *Pathkatha aur Anya Kahaniyan* (Hindi) and *Yes Sir* (Hindi).

The Padma Shri honour

Professor Akhtarul Wasey of Jamia Millia Islamia has been conferred the prestigious Padma Shri award. He has been honoured with 80 other awardees for his contribution in the field of Literature & Education.

Prof Wasey heads the Islamic Studies Department at Jamia Millia Islamia and is also the Honorary Director of the Dr Zakir Husain Institute of Islamic Studies at the University. He is the Editor of journals such as *Jamia*, *Islam and Modern Age* (English), and *Islam Aur Asr-e-Jadeed* (Urdu).



He has written a number of books and his articles have been widely published in journals, newspapers and magazines. He has been a representative at various fora, both nationally and internationally.

Weight for the gold

Dr Aurangzeb Khurram Hafiz at the Department of Physics has secured the top position at the recently concluded National Benchpress Powerlifting Championships held at Jamshedpur from February 22-26, 2013. Representing his home state, West Bengal, he not only secured gold in the 120 kg weight class, but also became the highest lifter of the championship, with the final lift of 225 kg.

Science award

DR ABDUR RUB, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, has been conferred with Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal for young scientist. The award carries a medal, citation, honorarium and a fund to carry out research.

Dr Rub has done his PhD from the National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune, and his Post-doctoral studies from the Immune Disease Institute, Harvard Medical School, Harvard University, US.

One book, three VCs

INTRODUCTION TO Wavelets with Applications, authored by Prof Khalil Ahmad, Dean, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Jamia, was released by Prof HP Dikshit, Former Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), at Jamia on January 29. Prof Dinesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi, was the Guest of Honour. Najeeb Jung, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia, presided over the programme.

The Balak Mata Centre



The Balak Mata Centre of Jamia Millia Islamia, located in the vicinity of Jama Masjid in Old Delhi, provides education and vocational training to deprived Muslim girls and women. The Centre runs from an old two-storeyed structure, which, according to a 'DDA Urban Heritage Certificate Award' given to the building in 1993, was used by Shah Jahan as "a home" while the Red Fort was being built. At one point of time, a Mughal prince's *begum* used it as her residence. Later, the last Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar gave it to one of his grandsons. The building, which has undergone many alterations, follows the traditional Indian architectural pattern of a courtyard surrounded by rooms.



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