

# JAUHAR

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## MOMENT OF GLORY

At a time when the Central Government has placed enormous emphasis on bolstering research and development work in the country, President Pranab Mukherjee honours Jamia Millia Islamia's Cosmology and Astrophysics Research Group, Centre for Theoretical Physics (CTP) with the prestigious 'Visitor's Award for Research'

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● 9 Faculties ● 39 Departments ● 27 Centres of Excellence and Research ● 238 Courses ● 991 Faculty Members ●  
Over 16,500 Undergraduate, Post-Graduate and Diploma/Certificate Students

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## From the Vice-Chancellor

**B**y the time this edition of Jauhar reaches you, it will be springtime. The summer vacation will be round the corner and a whiff of fresh air will rejuvenate your body and soul. A cheerful ambiance permeates the campus of Jamia with two successive heartening news.

The twin heartwarming developments that every one in Jamia will cherish for days to come include the Visitor's Award for 'Research' instituted by the President of India and NAAC accreditation.

Our Cosmology and Astrophysics Research Group, Centre for Theoretical Physics has bagged the prestigious award for path breaking research carried out in the field of Astrophysics and Cosmology.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the winning group and also other staff members of the university for creating a favourable support system that enabled our teachers to win the award. My office operates an open-door policy for discussion on research proposals from students and teachers alike. I have always endeavoured to espouse quality research work in the university.

The Central Government has also accorded top priority on research and development (R&D) and therefore I assume that funding institutions will support our research endeavours leading to creative outcomes. I hereby urge our teachers as well as students to rededicate themselves to research.

But, every recognition comes with a challenge. We can't be complacent. We must strive for the 'Best University Award' next time, a point I have been reiterating to our faculty members.

Similarly, we have scored high in NAAC assessment. We must undertake new initiatives in respect of NAAC's evaluative parameters to make the institution amenable to the second cycle Peer review in another five years. We need to be rigorously engaged with the teaching and research processes to explore new horizons to take Jamia to greater heights.

I express my deepest gratitude to the Honourable President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, who, as the Visitor to the university, has been lending his valuable guidance to Jamia. I specially thank him for taking measures for promoting research, innovation, best practices besides linkages with industry and society in the larger interest of access, equity and quality in higher education.

Last but not the least, I sincerely thank the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and University Grants Commission (UGC) for their continued support and guidance without which Jamia would not have become one of the outstanding universities of the country.

**Prof Talat Ahmad**  
Vice-Chancellor





# RESEARCH IN MOTION

At a time when the Central Government has placed enormous emphasis on bolstering research and development work in the country, President Pranab Mukherjee honours Jamia Millia Islamia's Cosmology and Astrophysics Research Group, Centre for Theoretical Physics (CTP) with the prestigious 'Visitor's Award' for 'Research'

**I**t was indeed a moment of glory for all those associated with the university when Jamia Millia Islamia was honoured with the Visitor's Award for 'Research' instituted by the President of India. A timely recognition for the institution, the award reinforces the academic objectives of the university to promote research and innovation besides quality teaching.

The President of India Pranab Mukherjee pre-

sented 'Visitor's Award' for Central Universities in the categories of 'Best University', 'Innovation' and 'Research' for the year 2015 at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on February 4.

The 'Visitor's Award' for 'Research' went to Cosmology and Astrophysics Research Group, Centre for Theoretical Physics, Jamia for path breaking research carried out in the field of astrophysics and cosmology. The group received a citation and cash

**THE ACHIEVERS:** President Pranab Mukherjee with the awardees of the First Visitor's Award-2015, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on February 4. Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Irani, and other dignitaries are also seen.



award of Rs. one lakh. The award for various categories were instituted last year by the President of India at the Vice-Chancellors' Conference with the aim of promoting healthy competition amongst Central Universities and motivating them to adopt best practices from across the world.

Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, who brought quality teaching and research high on the academic agenda of the university following assumption of office in May 2014, congratulated the research group, all the teachers and researchers for making significant strides in advancing the quality of teaching and research in the university. "It was extremely gratifying that Jamia Millia Islamia has been able to make a mark in the academic world and hoped that the institution will take teaching and research forward more vigorously to win Visitor's Award in the 'Best University' category next year," he observed.

#### RESEARCH RATIONALE

Research plays a vital role in the economic and social development of society. Some research could

## CTP: Crossing frontiers

**THE CENTRE** for Theoretical Physics is a vibrant research centre in the university. Its Centre for Theoretical Physics (CTP) has grown into a leading centre for research



in the country, and is the only centre in Delhi which is solely dedicated to research in theoretical physics. The Centre's activities are mainly in the areas of astrophysics, gravitation, cosmology and high energy physics.

#### ITUN NETWORK – FUNDED BY ICTP

ICTP, Italy has awarded ITUN (India-Thailand-Uzbekistan-Network) research project with CTP, JMI as a member institution. Prof Sushant G Ghosh as nodal coordinator, ITUN. The researchers (both faculty and students) from these countries can visit other countries for active research collaboration.

#### Research Highlights

- Formalism for analysing the models for late time acceleration on the singularity free models for modified theory of gravity and their relevance to late time cosmology.
- Unification of inflation and late-time acceleration.
- Unification of dark sector of the universe.
- A comprehensive study of blackhole physics and its impact on theoretical Deformations of Schwarzschild/Kerr metric arising from modified theories of gravity and to predict astrophysical observables within a more general bias independent framework and discuss their properties.
- Probing universe with gravitational wave astronomy using inspiraling binary blackhole and neutron stars.
- Combined analysis of space and ground based detectors. Stochastic Gravitational wave background Modelling and interpretation of X-ray data from existing satellites and upcoming Indian observatory (ASTROSAT).

#### Participation In Mega Projects.

- Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) Project, a joint collaborative project between USA, Canada, Japan, India and China: Two faculty are members of International Science Development Team.
- Square Kilometer Array (SKA) project, a joint collaborative project between South Africa, Australia, India and other countries. One faculty Member, Indian Science Working Group.





**RECOGNITION:** Pranab Mukherjee presenting the Visitor's Award for Research to Jamia professors.

lead to tangible benefits such as new products, technology and services.

However this may not be so in all cases. "If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?" asked the great scientist Albert Einstein. So, the outcome of research may be manifest or latent.

While inaugurating the 102nd session of Indian Science Congress (ISC) at the University of Mumbai

on January 3, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has time and again goaded the teaching fraternity to engage in research works, said that funding research proposals must not take too long to clear, and scientific departments must have flexibility of funding decisions based on the uncertainties inherent in research activities. The visionary Prime Minister always pitches for a framework to promote research in the universities.

In every university, various departments, be it science or humanities, strive for academic excellence by pursuing research in their respective fields. The amount of research work a department undertakes, reflects the overall academic excellence the university attains. Jamia being a central university is no exception and has since inception been making a conscious endeavour for promoting research. Let's have a quick look at the various research works being pursued in respective departments.

**DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY**

One of the leading departments of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, the department has published more than 400 research papers in reputed peer reviewed

**“It was extremely gratifying that Jamia has been able to make a mark in the academic world and hoped that the institution will take teaching and research forward more vigorously to win Visitor's Award in the 'Best University' category next year”**

journals during last five years. With one patent to its credit, the department has also filed for three other patents and is funded under special assistance programmes viz. UGC-SAP (DRS-I) and DST-FIST (Level-I). It has received research funding to the tune of ₹2.4 crore during last three years from various national and international funding agencies including University of Tabuk, Govt. of Saudi Arabia.

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

The department caters to its requisite teaching and research requirements with two modern air-conditioned computing labs. The entire department is connected through a LAN in order to provide modern teaching and learning environment and fast access to the Internet. It also has Wi-Fi connectivity.

### RESEARCH AREAS

Mining Web Opinion Sources Using Machine Learning Techniques; Development of Knowledge Based Grid in Semantic Web; A Structural Data Mining Framework for Social Network Analysis; Soft Computing Approach for Modeling Biological Networks; Enhancing Ontology Alignment with Machine Learning for Better Interoperability of Semantic are the prime research areas.

### PHYSICS

The thrust areas for the department include:

- Materials Physics: Crystal Growth, Amorphous Semiconductors, Conducting Polymers, Superconductivity, Surface Physics, Nanomaterials, Ferroelectrics, Advanced Ceramic Materials.
- Theoretical Physics: Theoretical Condensed matter physics, Theoretical High Energy Physics
- Other Areas: Nano Photonics, Laser and Molecular Spectroscopy, Non-linear optics; General Area: Experimental Condensed Matter Physics and Materials Science

### CIRBSc

The thrust of the centre is to carry out an interdisciplinary research by interfacing basic and life sciences, which in itself is a unique approach.

- Developed a database containing Disease Information (Indian context)
- Annotated Hypothetical Proteins from the common Indian Pathogen to discover the novel therapeutic targets.
- Established the evolutionary relationship among the protein using protein folding and stability studies.
- Developed a well optimized osmolyte based sys-

tem to increase protein stability for industrial and therapeutic application.

- Developed various types of Biosensors using nanomaterials for detection of free Cholesterol, Glucose, Hydroquinone and hydrazine
- Developed bio-solar cell in the form of Dye Sensitized solar cell using nanostructured metal oxide in combination with flower extracts and lanthanides
- Developed series of ionic liquids as a surfactants and moieties to control the protein folding properties
- Established series of nanostructured metal oxides for managing the oxidative stress in human and bacterial cell and their antimicrobial properties.
- Established procedures for extracts of medicinal plants for therapeutics and safe contraceptives.
- Established facilities to develop vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus (Chikungunya, Dengue, Hepatitis B and others)

### NANO SCIENCE


The Centre is continuing its ongoing research activities in the area of nano materials and emerging nanoelectronic devices. Identified thrust areas are:

- Growth of Single Wall Carbon Nanotubes using PECVD and LPCVD system
- Synthesis of Nanostructures/Nanomaterials,
- Semiconducting Nanowires, quantum dots, polymer Nanocomposites,
- Modeling and Simulation of Nanostructures,
- Nanoelectronics Devices/Sensors,
- Catalysis Nanoscience,

### PSYCHOLOGY

The department provides excellent facilities for research with specialisation in organisational, social, clinical, and counseling areas of psychology. Researchers have academic visits to countries like Singapore, Australia, UK, Russia, Sweden, etc.

### Research areas

- Self concept, self efficacy and emotional stability of children of dual working couples
- Determinants of quality of life of family caregivers of children with disabilities and autism
- Self Esteem, Emotional Stability and Examination Anxiety among Senior Secondary Students
- Neuropsychological profile of Alcohol dependents
- Effect of Mystic Rose Meditative Therapy on Depression, Quality of life and Mental Health. 



# Jamia scores 'A' grade in NAAC test

The NAAC accreditation brings jubilation among the academic fraternity and students alike



**Making a point:** Vice-Chancellor Prof. Talat Ahmad briefing the NAAC team about the university.

**C**lose on the heels of Jamia getting the President's 'Visitor's Award' in 'Research', another heart-warming development upped the status of the university among academic fraternity. It was the NAAC accreditation. As expected Jamia Millia Islamia scored 'A' grade in the academic test.

It was a proud moment for every member of the teaching and non-teaching staff of Jamia Millia Islamia as the university has been assessed and accredited by NAAC for the first cycle with an 'A' Grade. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), established by the University Grants Commission (UGC), assesses and accredits institutions of higher education in the country.

In this regard, it devises various types of formats, processes and outcomes for different types of institutions in the country.

Following the announcement of NAAC accreditation, there prevailed a palpable sense of satisfaction and jubilation in the campus of the central university.

The academics were happy as their hard work and dedication towards academic excellence got rewarded by the assessing agency.

Students in the central university were upbeat as they hoped the recognition will pave the way for better facilities in the university.

It was discernable in the number of congratulatory exchanges amongst teachers and students in respect of the outcome through e-mails.

The NAAC assessment was carried out in the third week of February.

The premier institution of higher learning was assessed on the criteria which include 1) Curriculum Aspects 2) Teaching, Learning and Evaluation 3) Re-



search Consultancy and Extension 4) Infrastructure and Learning Resources 5) Students Support and Progression 6) Governance, Leadership and Management and 7) Innovations and Best Practices.

This assessment and accreditation has reinforced the central university's outstanding credentials as an institution of excellence.

Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor of the university was pleased and expressed his happiness and satisfaction at the outcome of the long-drawn NAAC-related preparedness with which the university was engaged with.

Prof. Ahmad, who himself is a passionate researcher, congratulated the teachers, students, staff and parents for their valuable contribution.

The Vice-Chancellor said that it was a collective achievement of all the stake-holders in the university. However, the Vice-Chancellor chose to underline that new initiatives need to be unfolded to reinforce the activities in relation to NAAC's evaluative parameters to make the institution amenable to the second cycle Peer review in another five years.

It can't be ignored though, that the Vice-Chancellor, who always bats for a vibrant campus in Jamia Millia Islamia characterised by a deep pursuit of excellence, also sounded a note of caution.

Prof. Ahmad felt that there was no room for complacency and the university needed to be rigorously engaged with the teaching and research processes to map expansion of knowledge and also explore new frontiers to take Jamia to greater heights.

The Vice-Chancellor also expressed his sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and University Grants Commission (UGC) for their continued assistance and guidance without which Jamia would not have achieved this degree of remarkable success.

Prof. Talat Ahmad had a special mention for the measures initiated by Pranab Mukherjee, the President of India and the Visitor of the University for the promotion of research, innovation, best practices besides linkages with industry and society in the larger interest of access, equity and quality in higher education.

He sincerely expressed his gratitude to the Visitor for his visionary leadership and encouragements offered to Jamia Millia Islamia that manifested in the university winning the Visitor's Award for 'Research' in February earlier this year.

A 16-member NAAC Peer Team comprising experts from different domains of knowledge com-



**Another Milestone:** A 16-member NAAC Peer Team visited Jamia to assess the strengths and weaknesses.

menced their four-day visit to acquaint themselves with the strengths and weaknesses of the institution and analyze the mechanism for quality improvement. The team visited various departments of the university and made a first hand assessment of the facilities available at their disposal.

Evidently, the NAAC team was happy with the state-of-the-art facilities supporting research in Jamia that had led to credible outcomes.

Earlier, the university had assiduously geared itself up on all the parameters to get assessed and accredited by NAAC.

The assessment and accreditation of a university through an interface with a ranking agency is significant because the process is linked to funding and also to promotion of access, equity and excellence. The accreditation was expected to help the university to benchmark its academic and research programmes and for up-gradation of its infrastructure and learning resources besides injecting best practices into the system to meet the aspirations of the youth and nation in general.

Prof. Talat Ahmad's presentation on the university's strengths and his vision of tomorrow, which was highly focussed and informative was one of the highlights of the NAAC team's visit to Jamia.

#### **VC congratulates teachers and staff**

Following the announcement of the premier university's NAAC Accreditation with the award of Grade 'A' in the first week of March, Prof. Talat Ahmad met



**The Road ahead:** Vice-Chancellor Prof. Talat Ahmad interacting with the staff following NAAC accreditation.

the teachers and staff of the university and thanked them for their support and hard work which had enabled the institution to reinforce its outstanding credentials as an institution of excellence.

Interacting with teachers, the Vice-Chancellor observed that the academic community should engage itself rigorously with teaching and research processes to raise the bar of academic transactions in the university.

He stated that NAAC cycle 2 would impose more stringent evaluative parameters for its assessment and accreditation.

**Vice-Chancellor thanked the staff for their hard work and said that the university could earn laurels only because of their commitment to work and continuous support to students and teachers.**

“Therefore, it was time for teachers to rededicate themselves to the up-gradation of the pedagogical processes and produce quality research that would yield not only innovations but also help map new frontiers of knowledge,” the Vice-Chancellor also maintained.

Later, interacting with the staff, the Vice-Chancellor thanked them for their hard work and said that the university could earn laurels only because of their commitment to work and continuous support to students and teachers.

Prof Ahmad urged them to reengage themselves to their respective assignments, big or small, since every job-profile was critical to the functioning and advancement of the institution.

He proposed to introduce skill development programmes for the non-teaching community so that they could upgrade their proficiency in respective fields as that would contribute to the growth of the institution. The Vice-Chancellor received a big round of applause from the teachers and staff on both the occasions.

No doubt, the academics and other staff were visibly happy to interact with the Vice-Chancellor who was very friendly, generous and kind in his words. ↓





# Incubating Innovation

By inculcating a sense of innovation in its students, the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) is giving a fillip to the 'Make in India' initiative of the government



**Pep talk:** Prof. Mini Thomas addressing the gathering during an IPR awareness workshop organised in association with Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) New Delhi.

The Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) in Jamia assumes immense significance following the unveiling of Central government's ambitious Make in India initiative. Whereas Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet project has been designed to transform India into a global manufacturing hub, the CIE in Jamia has been trying to infuse a spirit of innovation among the students in particular and the academics in general.

This is because, "There are no dreams too large, no innovations unimaginable and no frontiers beyond our reach." The succinct quote by John S. Harrington sums up the spirit the Centre has been trying to inculcate among the academics and students alike. It is innovation that "distinguishes between a leader and a follower," so said Steve Jobs, the late Apple CEO and one of the most-widely acclaimed innovators of modern time.

"It is the duty of every teacher to incubate and inculcate the sense of innovation and entrepreneurship latent among the students. The CIE was the answer for such a quest," says Prof. Mini Thomas, the Director of the Centre.

The proposal for the Centre was prepared in May last year and on October 17, the Academic Council, JMI approved the setting up of such a Centre in principle.

"We at the Centre started motivating Faculty members as well as students for innovation. Innovation was not limited to science stream. It was open to all streams," she noted.

In January this year, the CIE started the Intellectual Property Rights division and academics were trained through workshops on various aspects of IPR regime including patents. The response was equally good.



“Two students from electrical and mechanical streams have already filed for patents,” she added. CIE has also been promoting signing of memorandum of understanding (MoU). Thus, an MoU was already in place with Powergrid Corporation India Limited and another one in the pipeline with the Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers’ Association (IEEMA), a national representative organization of manufacturers of electrical, industrial electronics and allied equipment.

**INNOVATE FOR A CAUSE**

Recently, the CIE conducted the final round of ‘Innovate For a Cause’ competition.

The competition was aimed at developing ideas which would solve a social problem and were evaluated for the social value, the expected results, feasibility and originality.

Out of the 20 odd teams who submitted their proposals, eight were shortlisted for the final round.

The panel of judges consisted of Sumit Dagar, founder of Kriyate, a mobile app for blind with international recognition as TED fellow, Upendra Giri, founder of ACOE Global and Mr. Sherfur Rahman, Co-Founder of the e-commerce company Shopatplaces.com.

“CIE is a great initiative for enabling education more applied and aligned to solve the common problems of people of India and can become impetus to contribute to ‘Make in India’ initiative by Indian Government. Being alumni of Jamia and part of the jury, I feel proud to associate with this initiative. We had some great ideas and presentations from the students today at the competition,” said Mr. Giri.

The contestant pool was diverse with representation from engineering, architecture, management studies, so-

cial studies, economics and many more.

The ideas ranged from improved cycle rickshaws, social reality shows, improvement in sanitation to education tools.

The first prize was given to the team ‘Eat-Creative’ where the students proposed a new cooking pot (Handi), with composite material to improve the efficiency, enhance the strength and promote healthier cooking.

The second prize went to ‘Sani-Tech’ a new and innovative toilet design using material suited for a geographical region with an improved sewage disposal system, reducing water pollution.

The multi-purpose rickshaw, ‘In-nomech’ conceptualized by the students with better ergonomics won the third prize.

The ideas generated from the competition will be patented, prototyped and tested by the CIE, for commercial viability, said Prof Thomas.

To facilitate and introduce the process of patenting and other intellectual property related issues, a day-long Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Awareness Workshop was organised by the Centre in association with Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC).

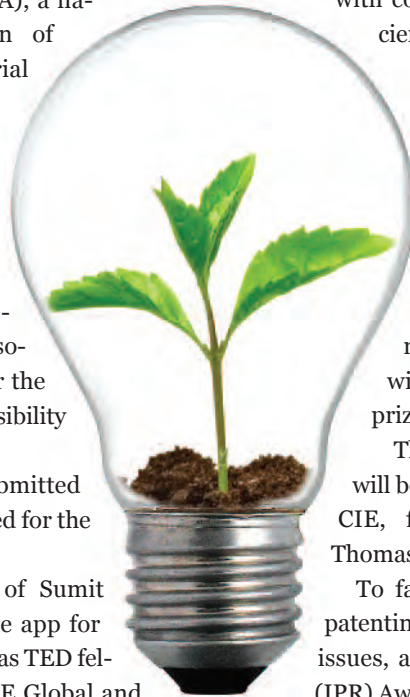
The Centre has four divisions. Under the Innovation and Technology Management Division (ITMD) efforts are made to create awareness among students and teachers regarding the need for innovation by organizing motivational talks, innovation competitions, awareness campaigns and innovation exhibitions.

Another objective is to scout for new and innovative ideas among students, staff and faculty across disciplines.

Two other divisions of the CIE include Capacity Building & Publication Division and Consultancy and Industry Interface Division.

Yasmeen Fatimah, who is helping the CIE as Consultant, said: “CIE is giving the students in Jamia an opportunity to think out of the box, to think beyond the complex theoretical world. In other words, the Centre has been helping them to translate their theoretical knowledge into practical purposes.”

“The CIE will help the winners of the innovation competition to build a prototype of their ideas. Necessary funds will be furnished to translate the ideas into some concrete shape,” noted Yasmeen, who has spent nearly two decades in the Silicon Valley, U.S.



**CIE is a great initiative for enabling education more applied and aligned to solve the common problems of people of India and can become impetus to contribute to Make in India initiative by Indian Govt.**



## Crazy Bruno is a startup to cater to the hunger pangs of nocturnal youngsters. Being incubated by CIE, Bruno already has two sit-down restaurants in Lajpat Nagar. Bruno was recognized as the midnight delivery brand.

### STUDENT CORNER

The students as a whole are very enthusiastic about the Centre and they look forward to it as a new platform where they can give a concrete shape to their ideas.

Maseera Ali, a B.Tech student of Jamia says: “We have got a platform in terms of the CIE a new platform that has taught us to be innovative in life. The Centre has opened before us new vistas for competition.”

Another B. Tech student Syed Ashar is of the view that the CIE has given them lot of exposure to some new and innovative ideas. “The Centre (CIE) has given us a platform to showcase our innovative talents. I think the Centre has extremely helpful for the students in Jamia,” said Ashar.

Raghav Gupta, (B.Tech) is also upbeat about the Centre. “The Centre has given us immense confidence as now we have got an organisation or platform where we can talk about our ideas for innovation.”

### SUCCESS STORY: CRAZY BRUNO

With a view to feeding hungry students at night, four Jamia students came up with the innovative idea of Crazy Bruno. Crazy Bruno is a startup to cater to the



**KUDOS:** Prof Mini Thomas, Director, CIE and Yasmeen Fatimah, Consultant to CIE along with the winners of the ‘Innovation for a Cause’ contest. The winning ideas will be patented and tested for commercial viability.

hunger pangs of nocturnal youngsters. Being incubated by CIE, Bruno already has two sit-down restaurants in Lajpat Nagar. Four students from Jamia Abhishek Chauhan, Ashish Kumar, Hemanth Bhatia and Omaid Asad (all from Electrical Communication Engineering, ECE department) used to live together in a flat near Jamia.

They observed that lot of people wanted food to be served till late night but no such established name was there in the market to cater to such people.

So there they found a market which wasn’t catered well and had a lot of potential. They came up with this idea of starting a night delivery service, and south Delhi was the best zone to start such a venture.


They called the venture Crazy Bruno. Soon, Crazy Bruno was recognized as the midnight delivery brand and eventually the repeated customers also increased.

“We were getting constant orders for the day delivery also but only after 7-8 months, thanks to the monetary help provided by our friend Neda Fatima, we could enter the day business and then we opened a new restaurant in Lajpat Nagar,” said Abhishek Chauhan.

At present, they have four outlets in South Delhi.

“Our future plan is to stabilize these four branches and then expand all over Delhi-NCR and eventually be recognized as a reliable food brand,” the team added.

The youngsters feel that the CIE gave them the platform to translate their ideas into action.

“We are highly obliged that we were the first startup that has been incubated by the CIE, they’ve provided us infrastructural support and guidance,” the Crazy Bruno team said. 





# 'Jamia a partner in education for all'

HRD Minister Smriti Irani assures all support for modernisation of education apparatus




**Reform:** HRD Minister Smriti Irani addressing the Jamia students at a national symposium.

**R**eaffirming her Ministry's commitment to modernising the education apparatus for the Muslim youth, Union Human Resources Development Minister Smriti Irani said Jamia Millia Islamia is an important partner in taking forward the government's mission of providing "education for all".

Addressing a national symposium on "Educating and Mainstreaming of Indian Muslims" organised by


Muslim Youth for India and Jamia Millia Islamia on February 2, the HRD Minister underscored the importance of "character building" through education. Education should help instill in the youth a strong sense of service to the under-privileged and the motherland, she noted. The Minister who was the Chief Guest of the event assured the representatives of the Madrasa system that her Ministry had taken all the necessary steps towards modernisation and strengthening of Madrasas across India.

Zafar Sareshwala, Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) was the Guest of Honour. Tanvir Ahmad, former Chairman, Haj Committee of India also gave a thought provoking speech as he claimed that the Revolt of 1857 can be regarded as an event when the Muslims were at the mainstream and there was no distinction between the Muslims and Hindus as at that time they all regarded themselves as "Hindis".

Comparing Minister Irani with the first Education Minister of India Maulana Azad, Akhtarul Wasey, Commissioner, National Linguistic Minorities Commission called her a "mother — educator". Wasey also appealed to the HRD Minister to nurture the Muslim population of India towards a bright and educated future. 

## Award for VC Prof Ahmad

**I**n recognition of his contribution to the field of education, Vice Chancellor Prof. Talat Ahmad was recently honoured with the 26th Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar Award.

A renowned earth scientist, Prof Ahmad earlier served as VC of Kashmir University. He completed his Ph.D. from JNU and went on to do post doctoral research stints at University of Leicester, UK under a Government of India Fellowship; at University of Cambridge under NERC (Natural Environment Research Council Fellowship) and at Nagoya University, Japan. 



Prof. Talat Ahmad

## Jamia hosts Anand Kumar of Super 30 fame

**JAMIA MILLIA** Islamia, in collaboration with Human Chain, an NGO working for the weaker sections of society, invited Dr. Anand Kumar, Founder Director, Super 30 to conduct an interactive session for motivating the students of the university.

Dr. Kumar, in his speech, recounted success stories of several students from the underprivileged sections. He said success in any field demanded tremendous thrust, positive thinking, continuous hard-work and great patience. He asked the students to imbibe these qualities to achieve success. He left many in the audience teary-eyed with his narration of vicissitudes of life reflected among the students in Super 30.



# Spotlight on the North-East

An international conference at Jamia highlights cross-border ethnicities and cultures

**B**ringing together one of the largest ever gathering of scholars, practitioners, students, writers and researchers from across India to Jamia, the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research organised a three-day international conference on the North-East from February 4-6.

The Conference, “Reimagining the North East: Narratives, Networks and Negotiations”, saw around 14 parallel sessions where nearly 60 scholars from different universities presented their empirical work as well as new ideas and projects.

“What is truly encouraging is that many of those who participated were young researchers and teachers who are deeply rooted in specific issues and concerns and seek to address them through their field work, analysis and vision,” said Prof. Sanjoy Hazarika, Director of the North East Centre, which organised the conference. It is the third in a series which started at Göttingen University in Germany in 2011, followed by one hosted at the University of Vienna in 2013.

A major highlight of the conference was a conversation ‘A Thousand Years in a Lifetime’ where, among others, historian and author Ramachandra Guha touched upon issues concerning the region.



**Closing gap:** The conference saw 14 parallel sessions where nearly 60 scholars from different universities presented their works.

Prof. Guha pointed out three asymmetries in the region — political, cultural and ecological with the result that it was becoming a natural resource ‘catchment area’ for India.

Vice Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad praised the sustained work of the Centre over the years. He pledged continued support of the university to the centre, saying it had set a standard for research and innovation. 📌

## Majaw wows Jamia students

**T**he Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research celebrated its Fifth North East Annual Day ‘The times, they are a-changin’ at the Safdar Hashmi Amphitheatre on January 5. The event that had enthralling performances by the Brahmaputra Bihu Group, Footwings and the iconic singer from Shillong Lou Majaw was attended by over a thousand people.

The evening started with a rhythmic Bihu performance by the Brahmaputra Bihu group. Footwings came next on stage and wooed the audience with popular numbers like ‘This Love’ by Maroon Five and ‘Counting Stars’ by One Republic



**India's Bob Dylan:** Lou Majaw from Shillong is famous for his Bob Dylan tribute shows.

among some popular numbers by indie-pop artists. Lou Majaw, the Khasi singer and guitarist who is famous for his Bob Dylan tribute shows, left the audience spell-bound with his peppy numbers. Majaw celebrated 50 years of performances this year. 📌



# A tribute to a great leader

Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari inaugurated a painting exhibition on Dr. M.A. Ansari



Vice-President of India Mohammad Hamid Ansari inaugurating the photo exhibition.

**V**ice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari inaugurated a photo-exhibition on Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari, a leading light of the Indian Independence Movement and a co-founder of Jamia Millia Islamia, in the M.F. Husain Art Gallery, Jamia Millia Islamia.

This photo exhibition was curated by Professor S.M. Akhtar, Dean, Faculty of Architecture & Ekistics, Jamia Millia Islamia.


There were over 100 exhibits on display.

The Vice-President showed great enthusiasm to view the meticulously-curated pictures on display on one of the luminaries of Indian education.

The inauguration of the exhibition took place in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Professor Talat Ahmad who said that a photo exhibition on Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari, an epitome of social service, would help students to instill in themselves a sense of service to humanity.

Later, interacting with the media-persons, the Vice-President quoted Mahatma Gandhi, who called Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari 'an ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity'.

The exhibition was an outcome of the efforts made by Professor S.M. Akhtar, who through his individual initiative collected many of the rare photos from Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari's native place in Yusufpur in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh and spread over two years to put the exhibition together with the help of Jamia administration.

A photo narrative on the life and accomplishments of Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari was also displayed. Dr. M.A. Ansari was a former president of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League during the Indian Independence Movement. 

## New hostel for minority women

**PROFESSOR VED PRAKASH**, Chairperson, University Grants Commission (UGC) inaugurated a hostel building meant for the students of Residential Coaching Academy (RCA) in Jamia Millia Islamia in the presence of Prof Talat Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor. Meant for candidates belonging to minority communities, Scheduled Castes, (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and women students, the hostel would facilitate their training for various competitive examinations, particularly civil services examinations.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Ved Prakash applauded the efforts of Jamia in establishing a vibrant coaching academy which has the potential to



outdo other institutions of its kind. He felt that Jamia should compete with itself to reach greater heights. He averred that educational institutions provide a platform for human growth and realisation of national and international aspirations. He also assured all possible support to the university to help it realise all its academic objectives.



# Technology to power education

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Dr. Najma Heptulla inaugurates education conference at Jamia

**T**he government is committed to promoting the use of technology for advancement of education and the development of the country, said Union Minister for Minority Affairs Dr. Najma A. Heptulla.

Inaugurating a two-day international education conference on “Learning Technologies in Education” at Jamia Millia Islamia on February 25, Dr. Heptulla observed that the nation since Independence has continued to grapple with challenges in respect of access, equity and quality.

The new learning technologies, could be harnessed to promote education for the development of the country, noted the Union minister.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Mohammad Miyan, Vice-Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad highlighted the significance of technologies in education and said that the technological platforms available to us needed to be suitably exploited in schools, both government and private, and in institutions of higher learning to enable inclusion of those on the margins.


Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia impressed upon the students and faculty to use technology in their pursuit of excellence.

He observed that any technological environment



**Step forward:** Prof. Talat Ahmad welcoming the Union Minister for Minority Affairs Dr. Najma A. Heptulla.

for education was an empowering experience as it allowed all stakeholders to enrich their learning and delivery processes.

Earlier at the event, Prof. Ahrar Husain, Dean, Faculty of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia welcomed the guests and delegates. Prof. Harjeet Kaur Bhatia presented the concept paper for the international education conference. 

## Follow your dream and make the most out of hostel life: VC

**P**rof. Talat Ahmad paid a visit to the Girls’ as well as Boys’ Hostels, Jamia Millia Islamia on the evening of February 9, to interact with the Hostel residents and also make a survey of the facilities and environment of the Hostels in the university. He spent a considerable amount of time in both the Hostels and spoke to the students about his views on hostel life.

The VC reminded the students that life in a hostel was a singular opportunity during which a student could focus on whatever his/her personal interest and ambition was. Once that ambition was achieved, and the students would have joined the



mainstream, he/she would have to perform and participate in dozens of other activities which would not really be of their will or desire, since such activities are only a part of the nature of social life. Hostel life, on the contrary, allows for a space where there are no intrusions or interferences. The Vice-Chancellor was accompanied by the two Provosts and several wardens. They were delighted to share their dinner meal with the well known earth scientist. 



# Bustling campus

A sneak peek at some of the important events organised by the university during the quarter



Prof. Seyed E. Hasnain, renowned biological scientist being felicitated by VC Prof. Talat Ahmad.

**ASSESSMENT:** The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Basic Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia organised a National Symposium on ‘Biophysics’ and ‘Golden Jubilee Meeting of the Indian Biophysical Society’ from February 14-17. Eminent molecular biologist Prof. Seyed E. Hasnain from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi graced the occasion as Chief Guest of the inaugural session. This meeting provided an opportunity to biophysicists from across the country to interact and generate new ideas. The speakers of this symposium presented exciting new results that were obtained using a range of biophysical approaches to address many challenging questions.

**INNOVATION:** The Department of Geography has been identified under FIST Programme-2014 for support in Level-I category by the DST based on the recommendations of the FIST Advisory Board (FISTAB). Consequent upon this development, the Department of Geography, Jamia Millia Islamia will now fall under “FIST Assisted Department” category. This will give new impetus to teaching and research activities of the department.

**CORPORATE MEET:** The University Placement Cell, Jamia Millia Islamia organised a Corporate Meet to discuss the framework for industry mentorship under the initiative of University-Industry-Linkage Programme in the Faculty of Engineering & Technology Auditorium. Around 200 participants from industry, alumni and students attended the programme.

**ECO-FRIENDLY:** Jamia Millia Islamia has always taken the lead in spreading social messages to people, especially those that concern the masses. One of the innovative ways of doing the same is through its annual feature of a ‘Cycle Rally’. Jamia Millia Islamia organised a one-week students’ Cycle Rally from Varansi (U.P.) to Delhi from December 15-22 to generate awareness about the necessity of having Clean Ganga.

**PROMOTING SOCIAL RESEARCH:** The Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, in collaboration with the School of Public Health, University of Minnesota (Twin Cities Campus), Minneapolis, Minnesota in the US, organised an international Summer School on “Research Methodology in Public Health”, on February 16-17 and an international conference on “Public Health Infrastructure in Transition: Challenges and a Way Forward” from February 18- 20. The international conference has received more than 380 abstracts and over 160 full papers which includes research papers, case studies, policy reviews and conceptual papers presented by eminent scholars, practitioners, policy makers and renowned academicians.



**CELEBRATING WOMANHOOD:** International Women’s Day was celebrated as Jashn-e-Khwateen at Balak Mata Centre, Qassabpura, Matia Mahal and Beri Wala Bagh. Nearly 400 women participated with their children in various programmes. Prizes were also distributed among the winners of *mehendi* application, musical chair and dance and skit competitions. Apart from providing nursery, primary and vocational education to community children, BMC is also serving for the community development regarding health, education.





# Scripting glory for university

Kulsum Fatima presented a paper in world architectural conference held in Durban

**A**r. Kulsum Fatima, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture & Aesthetics, Jamia presented a paper titled “Analysis of Settlement Pattern and the Dynamics of Hydro Environmental Imbalance – Delhi As A Case Study” at the 25th International Union of Architects World Congress, one of the most prestigious Architectural Conference organised by International Union of Architects (UIA) at Durban, South Africa in August last year.



Her paper was among the eight selected papers from the Indian subcontinent.

The International Union of Architects (UIA) organises a World Congress every three years.

The UIA is a non-governmental organisation accredited

by the United Nations, and it represents professional associations of architects in 124 countries and approximately 1.3 million architects worldwide.

The UIA secretariat, located in Paris, is responsible for the Union’s management and general administration.

During the conference, Fatima was also invited to deliver a special guest lecture on the topic “Sustainable Innovative Technologies in Architecture” held at the School of Built Environment and Development Studies (BEDS), University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus, Durban.

Jamia Millia Islamia congratulates Ar. Kulsum Fatima and wishes her the very best in her academic endeavours. ↓

## Laurel for young teacher

**J**amia Millia Islamia has been awarded Certificate of Merit/Best paper award in the International Multiconference of Engineers and Computer Scientists in Hong Kong (IMECS 2014). The paper was prepared by Dr. Sajad A Loan, Assistant Professor, Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, Jamia. The conference is organised annually by International Association of Engineers (IAENG) in Hong Kong.



The paper titled ‘High Performance Oxide Engineered Lateral Schottky Bipolar Transistor’ presented the designs a novel high performance Schottky collector bipolar transistor. The proposed device showed a significant improvement in various performance measuring parameters, like breakdown voltage, on-resistance and speed in comparison to the conventional devices. Earlier, Dr. Loan’s paper received the distinction in IEEE Conference on Semiconductor Devices (ICSE 2008) in Malaysia, when he was pursuing his PhD. ↓

## Prof S.S. Islam: A Nano expert

**PROF SS ISLAM** in the Department of Applied Sciences & Humn has been working in Jamia over three decades. He received French Govt Fellowship for higher studies at the University of Paris and Post Doctoral Fellowship for research at Max Planck Institute, Stuttgart.



An expert in Nanotechnology, he has been engaged in a number of projects relating to Nano technology. Author of the book titled ‘Semiconductor Physics and Devices’, Prof. Islam has published around 150 research papers. He has also applied for as many as six patents and has one US patent in his name (“A Process For Making Alumina Gas Indicator Using Single Wall Carbon Nanotubes/Alumina Composite Thick Film”).



# Treasure Trove

Mohammad Sultan recollects his fond memories about Jamia, both as a student and a professor and his close association with Dr. Zakir Hussain, one of the precious jewels of Jamia



**Vintage glory:** (From right) Prof Mujeeb, Barrister Nuruddin Ahmed, Begum Mujeeb and Mohammad Sultan during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Jamia Millia Islamia University.

**H**e joined Jamia as a school student in the 1930s and retired from the Central University as a Professor. This gives us enough idea how deeply Mohammad Sultan, now 83, has been associated with the gradual evolution of this centre of learning.

Sharing his fond memories of Jamia, the professor said that the taste of the sandwiches that M. Gerda Phillipsborn used to give the students of I Grade in 1937 at Jamia in Karol Bagh is still fresh in his memory. “She was a motherly figure and her affectionate nature earned her the sobriquet “Apanjan” among the students,” says Professor Sultan.

The octogenarian academic has a tender heart and an alert mind.

An economist, Professor Sultan was born in 1932 in Meerut and joined Jamia as an I Grade student. “At that time Jamia was in Karol Bagh and hardly had a campus. There were some buildings here and there,” says Professor Sultan. “During the days of communal tensions, 1946, Gandhiji came to Jamia in the evening, sat with us on the lawn and exhorted us to be brave and bold in life. He had a heart-to-

heart talk with us for about 15 minutes,” Prof Sultan proudly recollects.

Later, when the Jamia authorities approached Mahatma Gandhi that they wanted to delete the term ‘Islamia’, from its name, Gandhi replied: “If you delete the term Islamia, I will have no relation with Jamia.” Subsequently, when Jamia applied for the status of a minority institution, Gandhi’s famous statement was quoted.

Prof Sultan recollects how Panditji visited Jamia and the students went out to catch a glimpse of the hero of Indian National Movement.

At the time of India’s Independence, Jamia College was functioning from a small building called Jamia Old Boys Lodge, consisting of one hall and two rooms.

The building might have been small, noted Prof Sultan, but at that time no other universities in Delhi could match Jamia with its distinguished faculties at the graduate level. He recalls some names like Prof EJ Kellat (English), Prof Mujeeb (History), Dr Abid Hussain (Urdu) and Prof M Aqil (Economics). Later in the 1950s, Jamia College was shifted to the New Building.



In the year 1952, Prof. Sultan joined the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. The institute along with Institute of Rural Education were established following Dr Radhkrishnan's report which suggested that Jamia be developed into a rural university.

After a brief stint at Jamia, Prof. Sultan proceeded to the U.S. for higher education at the University of Florida, Gainesville from 1960-63. He secured A in all courses he offered. Sultan was also conferred the membership of Phi Kappa Phi honour society. He was offered a very good job in a federal project for agricultural development of some South American countries. Prof. Sultan, however, preferred to come back to Jamia and joined as Lecturer in 1963.

After an illustrious and eventful career in the Central University, he retired as the Head of the Department in 1992 and finally from Jamia in 1997.

In the year 1962, the University Grants Commission (UGC) declared Jamia a 'deemed to be University'. Up until then, the university was drawing funds from the Ministry of Education and fund flow was never smooth. It was a period of "extreme austerity." Post 62, the situation improved and cash requirements for the university's development were available more easily.

Not only that more buildings constructed, but new departments also added to the university's glory. However, when he visits Jamia now, the professor feels that the close relationship that the students shared with the teachers in those days is somehow slowly getting reduced. "We could approach our teachers not only for academic issues but also for personal problems. No doubt today there is a huge expansion of the university but that personal bonding is somehow minimised."



Late Indira Gandhi and Mohammad Sultan during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Jamia.



From right to left: Prof M Mujeeb, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Hamid Ali Khan, Akhtar Hasan Farooqui and Mohammad Sultan.

He has played an active role in the affairs of the university. He was a Member not only of the Academic Council, but a Member of Jamia's Court and Executive Council as well. He also served as a Provost, Adviser to the Students' Union, among others.

When asked to recall an event that might have left a deep imprint on him, the Professor was quick to refer to the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Jamia in 1946.

"A multi-faceted personality Zakir Hussain brought the arch rivals of Indian political movement into one common platform. Ranging from Muhammad Ali Jinnah to Pandit Nehru, political leaders of different shades came to attend the celebrations thanks to the charisma of Zakir Saab," noted Professor Sultan.

Zakir Hussain's report on the completion of 25 years of Jamia is a piece of literature in Urdu per se, said Sultan. After listening the report prepared by Dr Zakir Hussain, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, who was also present there, said: "I used to think that one can only express himself fully well in English and not in Urdu. But now I realize that one can express himself better in Urdu than in English."

He was the Chief Organizer of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations. During the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 1970, both the then President VV Giri and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi attended the mega event. The Postal Department also issued a postage stamp marking the occasion.

Though age may be catching up on him, Sultan with his treasure trove of memories about his 'second home', is looking forward to the centenary celebrations of the university in 2020. The Professor is confident he will be there to make some humble contributions as well as see the mega event. J



# Jamia girls shine in tennis tournament

Women's team reached final in North Zone Inter-Univ Tennis Tournament with blazing shots

**J**amia Millia Islamia lost to the Delhi University team in a nail biting final match of North Zone Inter University Tennis (Women's) Tournament held at Amity University from January 6-10.

The tournament was organised by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

In the semi-final, Jamia beat Panjab University, Chandigarh. In the first match, Prerna Bhambri (Jamia) trounced Preeinian Grewal (Panjab University, Chandigarh) in straight sets, 6-1, 6-0. In the second singles, Arushi Sharma (Jamia) defeated Aashima Garg (Panjab University) 6-1, 6-0. In the

doubles match, Prerna and Arushi beat their opponents from Punjab University 6-3, 6-3 easily.

Prerna Bhambri, who is pursuing her MBA from Jamia, belongs to a family of tennis champions. Tennis comes to her naturally. Prerna's family background has inspired her to turn professional.

The 22-year-old tennis player is the younger cousin of Ankita Bhambri and Sanaa Bhambri, who were both national-level tennis players. Her cousin Yuki Bhambri, the 2009 Australian Open Junior Champion, and top Indian tennis player, also made a deep imprint on her. Her brother, Prateek Bhambri, who has since retired from professional tennis,



## Three-time winner of Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship, Prerna Bhambri has also played at the international level.

was also a professional tennis player.

She made her debut for the India Fed Cup team in January 2012 and has won two singles titles on the ITF tour. The talented tennis player reached her career best singles ranking of world number 509 on April 15, 2013.

Prerna reached the quarterfinals of the \$25,000 ITF tennis event in February 2013 in Muzaffarnagar. The three-time winner of Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship (2012, 13 and 2014) has also played at the international level.

She got a wild card entry at the QNet ITF Open Tennis tournament in 2014.

This six-foot tall teenager's dream is to play in the Grand Slams. 📌



**Budding star:** Prerna Bhambri, the talented tennis player, has represented the university in several tournaments.

## Encomium 15: A roaring success

**THE ANNUAL** techno-cultural fest of IEEE JMI was held on February 14-15. The festival was held after a gap of two years.

This year Encomium was held under the able guidance of Dr. Ahtesham-ul-Haq, the new Branch Counselor of IEEE JMI. The core team which comprised of all the excomm members along with the various coordinators and volunteers worked very hard to put up their respective events.

The opening ceremony was held on February 13 in the Engineering Faculty auditorium. The chief guest for the occasion was Professor Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor Jamia Millia Islamia. Ms. Preeti Malhotra, ED, Spice Global was the guest of honour and the event was presided by Prof. Mohd Shakeel, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology. Prof Mini Thomas, Chairperson IEEE-Delhi section also graced the occasion. Dr. Ahteshamul Haque welcomed the guests and other dignitaries and showed a video about IEEE and its technical activities. The IEEE JMI annual magazine — *Encore* was also released during the opening cere-



**Literary notes:** The IEEE JMI annual magazine — *Encore* being released during the opening ceremony.

mony by dignitaries present on the occasion. This was followed with a speech by Maudood Ahmed, Chairperson, IEEE JMI. The fest was a perfect amalgamation of technical, cultural and sports events. Technical paper presentation, IEEE Smart City Challenge, robotics competition, gully cricket, nukkad natak, singing, dancing, and battle of bands were some key events of the fest. Vinesh Tyagi, GM, Phillips was the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony.

# Resurgent Republic



Jamia Millia Islamia celebrated the 66th Republic Day with traditional fervour and gaiety on January 26. Vice Chancellor Prof. Talat Ahmad unfurled the tri-colour in the school premises to mark the occasion. Later, addressing the students, teachers and staff, Prof. Ahmad applauded the efforts of the students for assembling in large numbers to celebrate the day despite intermittent rains. The Vice-Chancellor drew attention of the audience to the visit of U.S. President Barack Obama to India on the 66th Republic Day that signified India's importance in the world order. Talking about the efforts initiated to bring Jamia schools in the best league, he said that an exercise was underway to set up an Incubation Cell to promote creativity and innovation among students.



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