

Office of the Chief Public Relations Officer
Jamia Millia Islamia

Press Release

VC Prof. Mazhar Asif completes one year in office; JMI witnesses an era of academic expansion, national education policy implementation, administrative efficiency, setting a new benchmark in institutional governance

New Delhi, October 28, 2025

Prof. Mazhar Asif marked the completion of one year in office as Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) dedicating his tenure to academic expansion, administrative efficiency, national education policy implementation and increasing internationalization for the overall growth and development of the university. The completion of his **first year in office** coincides with the **105th Foundation Day and Talimi Mela** celebrations which will be inaugurated on October 29th, 2025. This year, the Talimi Mela, JMI's famed educational and cultural festival, is particularly significant as for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, the JMI administration under Prof. Asif and Registrar of JMI, Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi has announced a six-day celebration from October 29 to November 03, 2025 marking a revival of the university's vibrant cultural ethos and leadership in education.

Prof. Asif and Prof Rizvi's first year in office has seen a concerted push towards academic excellence, institutional expansion and quality enhancement, evident in the high national and international rankings of the university in recent months. JMI's performance in the coveted Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026 in which the university is ranked among top institutions in the world, emerging as the highest-ranked Central University and the third-highest-ranked institution in India, achieving a position in the 401–500 band, has been spectacular. Under Prof. Asif and Prof Rizvi, JMI has improved its global standing, moving up from the 501–600 band last year to the 401–500 band in the 22nd edition of the THE World University Rankings featuring 2,191 universities from 115 countries. In the latest NIRF 2025 India rankings, JMI earned 4th position in the 'university category', while retaining its 13th rank in the 'overall' category. Significantly, in a new ranking criteria introduced by NIRF from this year, JMI has bagged the third position among Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) institutions demonstrating that JMI has been dutifully fulfilling its commitment towards the environment and the planet, ensuring a sustainable future for all.

Prof. Asif and Prof. Rizvi have received unwavering support from various Ministries of the Government of India for expanding the academic canvas of JMI by offering multiple value-added courses and enhancing the existing teaching programmes. To this end, the Ministry of Education has recently approved 6 teaching posts to establish the Department of Library and Information Science at JMI which is a landmark development, as the university has been running the B. Lib. I. Sc. course since 1985 without permanent faculty members. This step rejuvenates JMI's historic library, established in 1920 itself, the foundation year of JMI.

The university has also received financial aid from the Ministry of Education to start the much-awaited MDS (Postgraduate Programme) in Dentistry, a major milestone that will strengthen JMI's Faculty of Dentistry.

This year's admission cycle saw JMI successfully conduct admissions for all programmes with complete transparency and efficiency, setting a new benchmark in institutional governance. For the academic session 2025–26, the university has introduced several new academic programmes in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP 2020). These include two self-financed undergraduate programmes: B.A. (Hons.) in German Studies and B.A. (Hons.) in Japanese Studies, besides an Advanced Diploma in Child Guidance and Counseling. These programmes have been designed to equip students with multilingual proficiency, intercultural competence, and industry-oriented skills, fostering a global mindset in keeping with the NEP's vision.

A member of the drafting and monitoring committee of the NEP 2020, Prof. Asif has ensured that the policy is fully implemented across all JMI courses and programmes. This milestone places JMI among the first central universities to achieve complete NEP compliance. Further, to integrate India's civilizational heritage with modern education, JMI has introduced multiple courses under the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) framework, encouraging research and teaching in India's traditional wisdom, cultural history, and alternative knowledge paradigms.

In recognition of his commitment to the promotion of Hindi as Rajbhasha, the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has entrusted Prof. Asif with the Presidency of the Town Official Language Implementation Committee, Delhi Central-1, comprising 191 Central Government offices. The first meeting of the Municipal Official Language Office Committee, Nagar Rajbhasha Karyalaya Samiti (NARAKAS) was held at JMI in May 2025 and the second meeting is being conducted on day 3 of the Talimi Mela, on 31st, October, 2025.

Under Prof. Asif and Prof. Rizvi's leadership, the university has deepened its global engagement and cultural diplomacy in line with the spirit of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, that is “the world is one family”. To further this, the JMI administration has instituted new offices of the Dean, International Relations, Dean, Academic Affairs, and the Dean, Alumni Affairs to facilitate academic collaborations and student exchanges and encourage the alumni to stay connected with their *alma mater*. The university hosted Ambassadors and Cultural Attachés from over 15 countries during the Orientation Programme for Foreign Students under the aegis of the Office of Foreign Students' Advisor. A new Iranology Hall was inaugurated to further cultural understanding and research with Iran.

Prof. Asif and Prof. Rizvi have placed a special emphasis on faculty recruitment, promotions, and administrative transparency. In line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) and with a focus on boosting the morale of the faculty members and staff of the university, the VC and Registrar, JMI have ensured timely implementation of promotions across the university. As a result, more than 55 teachers and over 300 non-teaching staff members have received their long-pending promotions. Additionally, new faculty appointments have been made to fill posts that had remained vacant for several years.

Under the leadership of Prof. Asif and Prof. Rizvi, the administration has also introduced a new tradition of organizing monthly Farewell-cum-felicitation functions to honour retiring teachers and staff. In a commendable gesture of respect and gratitude for their dedicated service to JMI, retirement benefit cheques are presented to the retirees on the same day during these ceremonies conducted at the end of every month.

Addressing a long-standing issue, the administration has also ensured timely disbursement of salaries to contractual and Grade 3 and 4 employees. While salaries were delayed by several months in earlier years, all employees now receive their payments within the first week of every month, reflecting the administration's commitment to equity for all members of the Jamia community so that no one faces any financial hardships.

Driven by a strong student-centric vision, Prof. Asif and Prof. Rizvi have also overseen several key academic reforms, including the timely release of examination results and the introduction of improved evaluation and examination processes. In a major digital initiative, JMI has also approved the online issuance of provisional marksheets, making the examination and evaluation process more student-friendly and efficient. Prof. Asif and Prof. Rizvi have made it a point to personally attend all *Deeksharambh*, the Student Induction Programme organized at the beginning of the academic year in accordance with UGC guidelines, so as to warmly welcome new students admitted to various Faculties, Departments and Centres of JMI.

Emphasizing on their future vision for JMI, Prof. Asif and Prof. Rizvi said: "Over the past year, our collective effort and full thrust has been to make JMI a distinctive institution that attains national and international accolades for excellence in teaching, research and innovation. We have to carry forward and build-on the legacy of the past 105 years which this historic institution has been founded on. The task before us is both monumental and challenging but we are sure that with our dedicated faculty members, committed staff and the goodwill of the entire JMI fraternity, we will achieve our goals in record time".

Prof. Saima Saeed

Chief Public Relations Officer



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