

Press Release

**JMI hosts a special exhibition to commemorate the Life and Legacy of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his 156<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary**

New Delhi, October 7, 2025

The Dr. Zakir Husain Library, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) in collaboration with the University Cultural Committee yesterday organized an exhibition on the theme 'Mahatma Gandhi: His Life and Times' to commemorate the ideals, philosophy and contribution of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his 156<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary. The exhibition was inaugurated by Prof. Mazhar Asif, Vice Chancellor, JMI, and the chief patron of the event. The exhibition displayed the private papers of Gandhi ji and showcased his life and work through a rich collection of photographs along with books on Mahatma Gandhi in Hindi, Urdu, and English language.

The event was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar, JMI, Prof. Neelofer Afzal, Dean Students' Welfare and Chairperson of the University Cultural Committee; Dr. Vikas S. Nagrale, University Librarian; Mr. Qaisar N.K. Jani, Guest Speaker; and Dr. Umaima, Convener University Cultural Committee. Several dignitaries, including Deans, HoDs, Directors, Provosts, Proctor, ICC chairperson, attended the event along with distinguished faculty members and students. The exhibition was coordinated and introduced by Dr. Umaima.

The inauguration of exhibition was followed by a special event commemorating the life and legacy of Mahatma. The programme commenced with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran and their translation, followed by the felicitation of guests and a soulful rendition of the Jamia Tarana.

Prof. Asif, VC JMI, in his presidential address, highlighted that the *Nai Taleem* envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi emphasized value-based and skill-oriented education. He remarked that the essence of *Nai Taleem* has been thoughtfully integrated into the NEP-2020, making it significant in today's educational landscape. He further stressed three key principles of Gandhi ji which should be embodied in everyone's life: to respond thoughtfully rather than react impulsively, to maintain a positive outlook, and to always speak the truth with humility.

Prof. Rizvi, Registrar, JMI, and Patron of the event, in his special address, emphasized the enduring significance of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of *Ahimsa*. He reflected that true peace and stability can be achieved only by winning the hearts and minds of people and by fostering harmony through a positive and compassionate mindset. He further stressed that Mahatma Gandhi was the pioneer of the *Swadeshi* movement, which continues to hold great relevance even today, particularly in the context of the Government of India's *Make in India* initiative.

Mr. Qaisar N.K. Jani, in his keynote address, provided an insightful overview of Mahatma Gandhi's long-standing association with Jamia Millia Islamia. He emphasized the importance of incorporating the spirit of *Swadeshi* in our education, particularly through language and cultural practices. He highlighted that Jamia Millia Islamia has stood as a symbol of both nationalism and secularism since its inception. He further urged everyone to uphold Gandhi ji's ideals in everyday life, promoting peaceful coexistence, women's empowerment, *Nasha Mukti*, and *Swatchta Abhiyan* cleanliness campaigns, thereby keeping the principles and vision of Mahatma Gandhi alive.

Prof. Nilofer Afzal, Dean Students' Welfare, JMI, in her introductory address too highlighted the deep and long-standing relationship between Jamia Millia Islamia and Mahatma Gandhi. She reflected on how Gandhiji's vision, guidance, and unwavering support played a vital role in shaping the foundation and values of the university. She further emphasized that Jamia continues to embody the principles of truth, simplicity, self-reliance, and service to society—ideals that were central to Gandhi ji's philosophy and remain integral to the institution's character even today.

Dr. Vikas S. Nagrale, University Librarian, JMI, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for his unwavering support and visionary leadership. He graciously acknowledged Prof. (Dr.) Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar, JMI, for his constant guidance and mentorship. He also extended a warm welcome to Prof. Neelofer Afzal, Dean, Students' Welfare, JMI, for entrusting Dr. Zakir Husain Library with the opportunity to participate in the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations. In his address, he highlighted the significant role and contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in the establishment and sustenance of Jamia Millia Islamia. He emphasized Gandhiji's dedicated efforts and unwavering support in ensuring the continued growth and survival of the institution. He also stressed that the ideals and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi remain deeply relevant in today's world.

During the event, A Bibliography of books on Mahatma Gandhi available in the collection of Dr. Zakir Husain Library was formally released. The bibliography features a comprehensive list of works authored by Mahatma Gandhi, along with books written on Gandhi ji in Hindi, Urdu, and English languages.

This was followed by a soulful and captivating rendition of the bhajan "*Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram*" performed by the students from the Music club, Office of the Dean Students' Welfare, JMI. Furthermore, the Students from the Debate Club, Office of the Dean, Students' Welfare, actively participated in delivering inspiring speeches in Hindi, Urdu, and English.

A formal vote of thanks for the event was proposed by Dr. Umaima. The programme was conducted by Mr. Johan Mohd. Mir, information Scientist, Dr. Zakir Husain Library, JMI. The programme concluded with the playing of the National Anthem.

Prof Saima Saeed  
Chief Public Relations Officer



























