

Office of the Chief Public Relations Officer
Jamia Millia Islamia

Press Release

'Diksha Aagaz 2026–2027': AJK MCRC Organised Two-Day Student Orientation Programme

New Delhi, August 13, 2026

The AJK Mass Communication Research Centre (AJK MCRC), Jamia Millia Islamia, organised its two-day Student Orientation Programme, 'Diksha Aagaz 2026–2027', on 30 and 31 July 2026 at the James Beveridge Media Resource Centre, AJK MCRC. The programme marked the beginning of the academic journey of the newly admitted students and sought to familiarise them with the Centre's distinctive academic ethos, creative culture, professional legacy and the diverse opportunities available to them.

The programme commenced with the Opening Address by Prof. Sabeena Gadihoke, Director, AJK MCRC, who warmly welcomed the new students and introduced them to the academic and creative environment of the Centre. She spoke about the importance of critical inquiry, creativity, collaboration and professional engagement in media education, while encouraging students to make the most of the opportunities available to them at AJK MCRC and Jamia Millia Islamia as a university with a rich history.

Conceived as a meaningful introduction to academic life at the Centre, 'Diksha Aagaz' at AJK MCRC brought together faculty members, filmmakers, alumni and media professionals to engage with the incoming students. The two-day programme combined academic orientation with conversations around media practice, creative expression and professional journeys, enabling students to gain a broader understanding of their disciplines and the rapidly evolving media and communication landscape.

The first day, 30 July 2026, was dedicated to the newly admitted students of the MA Mass Communication programme. Eminent filmmakers and academics Prof. Anjali Monteiro and Prof. K.P. Jayasankar, former Professors at the School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, interacted with the students on documentary filmmaking, media practice and visual storytelling.

A key highlight of the session was the screening of their film *Libby de Liberdade*, which explores the life and experiences of centenarian freedom fighter, administrator and advocate Libia "Libby" Lobo Sardesai who lives in Goa. The session provided an

opportunity for the incoming students to experience the relationship between classroom learning and creative practice at the very outset of their academic journey.

The second day, 31 July 2026, brought together students of the MA Convergent Journalism, MA Development Communication and MA Visual Effects and Animation programmes for interactions with distinguished AJK MCRC alumni working across diverse areas of the media, communication and creative industries.

For the students of MA Development Communication, Mr. Sachal Aneja, alumnus of AJK MCRC and currently serving as Regional Corporate Partnerships Lead (Asia-Pacific) at Plan International, and Dr. Ashwinder Kaur, currently associated with Economics and Public Policy at PwC India, shared perspectives from their professional journeys. Their interactions introduced students to the varied applications of communication in the development sector and highlighted the importance of research, strategic engagement, partnerships and working with diverse stakeholders.

Students of MA Convergent Journalism interacted with Ms. Zoya Hussain and Mr. Karan Deep Singh, both alumni of the programme. Ms. Hussain, a multimedia journalist and Ramnath Goenka Awardee, spoke about contemporary journalism, investigative reporting and multimedia storytelling. Mr. Karan Deep Singh, a multi-award-winning journalist, documentary filmmaker, editor, and photographer, brought to the interaction his experience working at *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* as a Reporter and Visual Journalist, covering India and South Asia. Their conversations encouraged students to explore possibilities in the field of journalism, develop a strong journalistic practice and understand the changing demands of reporting across platforms.

For the students of MA Visual Effects and Animation, Ms. Tarab Khan, currently an Academic-cum-Teaching Associate at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Delhi, and Mr. Sambhav Aswal, currently serving as a Principal Engineer at Magic EdTech, shared their experiences at the intersection of creativity, visual effects and technology.

A significant aspect of the second day was the opportunity for students to interact with alumni who had themselves once begun their academic journeys at AJK MCRC. Their varied professional trajectories offered the new batch relatable examples of how an education in media and communication can open pathways across journalism, development communication, filmmaking, visual effects, technology and other emerging areas.

The orientation programme also familiarised students with the academic structure of their respective programmes, the facilities and learning resources available at the Centre, and the wider opportunities for academic, creative and professional engagement. Students were encouraged to actively participate in the academic life of the Centre, engage with their peers and faculty and make use of the rich learning environment offered by AJK MCRC. The programme reflected the broader

educational ethos of Jamia Millia Islamia, where academic learning is complemented by critical thinking, social engagement, cultural awareness and a commitment to meaningful professional practice.

Prof. Saima Saeed
Chief Public Relations Officer



























JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA
AJK MASS COMMUNICATION RESEARCH CENTRE

DIKSHA AAGAZ 2026-27
STUDENT ORIENTATION
PROGRAMME

☀️ 30 - 31st July ☀️ 02:00 pm

OUR GUESTS



K.P. Jayasankar



Anjali Monterio



Sachal Aneja



Karan Deep Singh



Sambhav Aswal



Ashwinder Kaur



Zoya Hussain



Tarab Khan





GPS Map Camera

New Delhi, Delhi, India 

MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Delhi
110025, India

Lat 28.559529° Long 77.28478°

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