

Office of the Chief Public Relations Officer
Jamia Millia Islamia

Press Release

JMI co-hosts International Conference on “Global Diplomacy and Regional Cooperation: India–Nepal Partnership in Buddhist Heritage”; Registrar, JMI, Prof Rizvi delivers the keynote address

New Delhi, February 2, 2026

A two-day International Conference on “Global Diplomacy and Regional Cooperation: India–Nepal Partnership in Buddhist Heritage” was jointly organised by Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (NMCP CRC) Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), Lumbini Buddhist University Nepal, Tribhuvan University Nepal, Mid-West University Nepal, South Asia Foundation Nepal Nalanda University Nalanda Bihar, Banaras Hindu University Varanasi Uttar Pradesh, MIT World Peace University Pune, Siddhartha University Uttar Pradesh, on 30–31 January, 2026 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The conference brought together eminent scholars, diplomats, policymakers, university leaders, and cultural practitioners from India, Nepal, Japan, and beyond. The conference provided a high-level platform to explore Buddhism as a shared civilizational heritage and a vital diplomatic bridge for regional cooperation, peace, and sustainable development.

The inaugural session witnessed the participation of distinguished dignitaries, including Vice-Chancellors of leading universities from India and Nepal, senior diplomats, ambassadors, and representatives of international institutions. The Registrar, JMI, Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, gave the keynote address highlighting the enduring relevance of Buddhist heritage as a bridge for diplomatic dialogue, regional co-operation and shared civilisational values between India and Nepal leaving a lasting impact on scholars, policy makers and practitioners. He emphasized that Buddhist heritage must be viewed not only as a historical legacy but also as a living resource for shaping future diplomatic engagement and regional stability in South Asia.

The conference featured multiple thematic sessions focusing on civilizational linkages, cultural diplomacy, educational cooperation, religious tourism, sustainable development, heritage conservation, and youth engagement. Prof. Abuzar Khairi, Offg. Director, NMCP CRC, co-chaired one of the session and spoke on Leveraging Regional Co-operation for Educational Ties: India Nepal Collaboration. Panel discussions explored the role of universities, multilateral institutions, and regional partnerships in strengthening academic exchanges, heritage-based peace education, and collaborative research initiatives between India and Nepal.

A significant outcome of the conference was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi, Lumbini Buddhist University Nepal and South Asia Foundation Nepal reinforcing long-term cooperation in the areas of Buddhist and peace studies, cultural research, and exchange programme. The deliberations also culminated in the adoption of the "New Delhi-Lumbini Declaration," which outlines a shared vision for promoting Buddhist heritage as a foundation for peace, regional cooperation, sustainable tourism, and intercultural understanding.

The conference concluded with remarks given by Registrar, JMI, Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, JMI on deepening India–Nepal cooperation through cultural diplomacy, education, and heritage-led development, reaffirming idea of positive peace, responsible diplomacy, and regional harmony. The Conference was attended by the following faculty members of Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution Jamia Millia Islamia Prof. Rajiv Nayan, Prof. Kaushikkee, Prof. Aslam Khan, Dr. Binish Maryam and Mr. Sudhanshu Trivedi.

Prof. Saima Saeed
Chief Public Relations Officer



Knowledge Partners



Nalanda University



Conference on

**“Global Diplomacy
and
Regional Co-operation:
India-Nepal Partnership
in
Buddhist Heritage”**

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