Office of the Chief Public Relations Officer
Jamia Millia Islamia

Press Release

Young Scholars Conference- 2026 inaugurated at the Department of TT & NFE (IASE), JMI

New Delhi, March 25, 2026

The Department of Teacher Training & Non-Formal Education (IASE), Jamia Millia Islamia commenced the two-day Young Scholars Conference on the theme "Researching Education: Theorisations, Frameworks and Methodologies" on 24 March 2026. Young scholars, early-career academicians, and researchers from across the nation gathered to present their innovative and path-breaking research works.

The key objective of this two-day conference is to provide a platform for research scholars, early-career researchers, teacher educators, and practitioners to share their work, exchange ideas, and critically engage with diverse research paradigms in education. The conference particularly aims at emphasizing reflective engagement with research processes, interdisciplinary dialogue, and methodological innovation in understanding contemporary educational realities.

The inaugural session formally began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Mohammad Haider Raza, a PhD scholar from IASE followed by Jamia Tarana by a team of students led by Mr Zeeshan Zamir Ahmad from the Department of Teacher Training and Non-Formal Education (IASE). Following this, the dignitaries and distinguished invitees were felicitated with saplings.

Prof. Farah Farooqi, Head of the Department of Teacher Training & Non-Formal Education, IASE, JMI, and Convener of YSC-2026, delivered the welcome address. She provided an overview of the Jamia Millia Islamia and its rich legacy. She also briefly highlighted the main objectives of the conference.

The conference overview was presented by Prof. Gurjeet Kaur who elaborated on the thematic focus and sub-themes of the conference. Her presentation underlined the need for interdisciplinary perspectives, critical inquiry, and innovative research approaches to address contemporary challenges in education. She said that as advisors of the conference, it was gratifying for her and Dr. Mohd Mamur Ali to see an idea being carried from inception to implementation.

The first plenary speaker, Dr Hem Borker from Department of Social Work, JMI, spoke on "Reflexivity and Representation: Ethnography in Researching Education." She began her

talk with a history of ethnography and then took the audience on a journey with Madrasa students, drawing upon her doctoral work. She emphasized the role of ethnographic portraits, a reflexive lens, and social reproduction in ethnographic studies. She ended her talk by discussing the need for ethnography in society.

The second plenary speaker, Dr Suvasini Iyer from Department of Elementary Education, Miranda House (DU), spoke on "Narrativizing the Field: Post-structural Analyses in School Ethnography." She began by explaining that school is a complex social space and discussed the challenges of studying it. She also elaborated on the methodology used in the qualitative research design and data collection, including the post-structural approach. She also discussed the discourse of the "good student" and "not a good student." She concluded her lecture by discussing how post-structuralism shapes narrative in the field.

The Chair of the session, Prof. Bulbul Dhar from the Department of Political Science, JMI highlighted the role of education as an agency in social and political spaces while consolidating the main points made by the two speakers. She also discussed the ethical dilemmas in research, feminist positionality (insider and outsider perspectives), narrative creation and managing the conflicting narratives.

The inauguration session concluded with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Ms Aaysha Zameer, followed by the national anthem led by Mr Zeeshan Zameer Ahmad from IASE, JMI. The inauguration session was followed by the technical sessions held at the Department of TT & NFE (IASE), JMI.

Prof. Saima Saeed
Chief Public Relations Officer

Introduction of the esteemed panel

Lecture by Dr Hem Borker

Lecture by Dr Suvasini Iyer

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