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Jamia Millia Islamia

Press Release

JMI Research Scholar Yusra Gul Presents Award Winning Project at 23rd N-AERUS Conference 2026 at Erasmus University Netherlands

New Delhi, November 16, 2026

Yusra Gul, a research scholar at the Department of Architecture, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), was invited by the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands, to participate in the 23rd N-AERUS Conference 2026, held from October 27 to 29, 2026. The conference, themed **"The Role of Partnerships in Development: Knowledge, Power, and Urban Futures,"** brought together researchers, academicians, practitioners and policy professionals to deliberate on the ongoing urban crisis around the World and finding their solutions.

Yusra Gul was invited as a sponsored speaker in this conference as a winner in the **Social/Collective Solutions category of the Rethinking Roofs Global Competition**, organised under the Inform2Build global competition. Her project, titled **Borrowed Sky: Collective Roofscapes as Thermal Commons in Informal Settlements,** is based on her ongoing Ph.D. under the supervision of Prof. Nisar Khan and Prof. Hina Zia. Prof. Nisar Khan informed that the ongoing research explores the idea of thermal commons where community-led local interventions are proposed to cooling solutions to the vulnerable groups. Prof. Hina Zia highlighted that the proposal was recognised for its simplicity and affordability in addressing heat stress in the unplanned settlements.

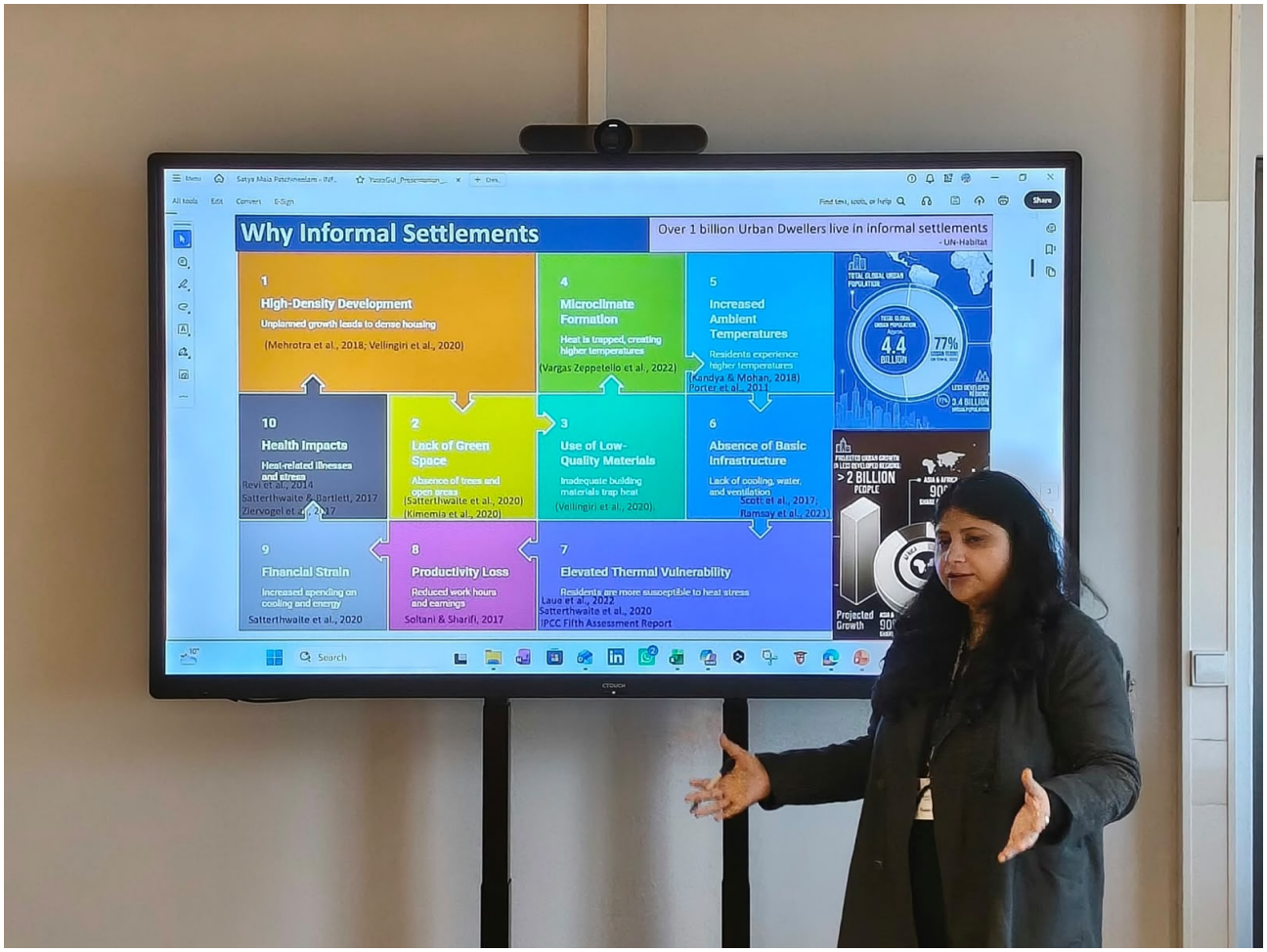
Prof. Mazhar Asif, Vice Chancellor, JMI, congratulated Ms. Yusra Gul and the supervisors on this achievement towards addressing urban challenges through socially relevant and sustainable solutions. He emphasised the University's commitment to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 through research and education. Prof. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar, JMI, appreciated the research team and stated that serving society should remain a priority for research institutions, adding that the achievement reflects JMI's significant role in nation-building.

This collaborative conference was organised by the globally reputed institutions such as Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), Erasmus University Rotterdam; the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University Rotterdam; and the University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil. The conference explored four major themes: urban

transformations and South–South partnerships; housing, urban resilience and inclusive development; governance, humanitarianism and development.

The international award and participation adds another recognition for the Department of Architecture and further highlight Jamia Millia Islamia's continuous contribution to research, innovation and knowledge exchange in architecture, housing and sustainable urban development.

Office of the CPRO
Jamia Millia Islamia


Why Informal Settlements
Over 1 billion Urban Dwellers live in informal settlements
- UN-Habitat
1
High-Density Development
Unplanned growth leads to dense housing
(Mehrotra et al., 2018; Vellingiri et al., 2020)
2
Lack of Green Space
Absence of trees and open areas
(Satterthwaite et al., 2020)
(Kimemia et al., 2020)
3
Use of Low-Quality Materials
Inadequate building materials trap heat
(Vellingiri et al., 2020)
4
Microclimate Formation
Heat is trapped, creating higher temperatures
(Vargas Zeppetello et al., 2022)
5
Increased Ambient Temperatures
Residents experience higher temperatures
(Kandya & Mohan, 2018)
Porter et al., 2011
6
Absence of Basic Infrastructure
Lack of cooling, water, and ventilation
Scott et al., 2017;
Ramsay et al., 2021)
7
Elevated Thermal Vulnerability
Residents are more susceptible to heat stress
Laua et al., 2022
Satterthwaite et al., 2020
IPCC Fifth Assessment Report
8
Productivity Loss
Reduced work hours and earnings
Soltani & Sharifi, 2017
9
Financial Strain
Increased spending on cooling and energy
Satterthwaite et al., 2020
10
Health Impacts
Heat-related illnesses and stress
Satterthwaite & Bartlett, 2017
Ziervogel et al., 2017
4.4 BILLION
77%
3.4 BILLION
> 2 BILLION PEOPLE
Projected Growth
Search


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