

Office of the Chief Public Relations Officer
Jamia Millia Islamia

Press Release

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025 celebrated at JMI

New Delhi, December 5, 2025

Dr. Zakir Husain Memorial Welfare Society, in collaboration with the New Socio-Economic Research and Development Foundation (NSERD), Proactive Foundation, Human Welfare Foundation, and Calyx Interio, celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025 on 3rd December 2025 at Dr. M.A. Ansari Auditorium, Jamia Millia Islamia. The event aimed to promote accessibility, empowerment, and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, bringing together academicians, para-athletes, policymakers, special educators, media professionals, parents, and students.

The programme commenced with a serene recitation of the Holy Quran by Ahmed Khan.

The highlight of the event was the powerful and thought-provoking address delivered by the Chief Guest, Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia, and Vice-President of Dr. Zakir Husain Memorial Welfare Society on the topic, 'A Call for Collective Responsibility and Inclusive Growth'.

Prof. Rizvi emphasized that the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is not merely an annual observance, but a reminder of the moral, social, and institutional responsibility to create a barrier-free, empathetic, and inclusive society.

Prof. Rizvi highlighted that parents play the foremost and crucial role in shaping opportunities for children with disabilities. Their acceptance, support, and belief in their child's abilities lays the foundation for empowerment.

This was followed by the role of educational institutions as catalysts of inclusion, Prof. Rizvi said. He stressed that schools, universities, and learning spaces must adopt inclusive practices, accessible infrastructure, and disability-responsive policies to ensure that every learner can participate fully and confidently.

Finally, underscoring the importance of society's collective action, Prof. Rizvi reminded the audience that inclusion cannot be achieved by a single group—it requires collaborative effort from educators, policymakers, NGOs, and communities. He urged stakeholders to go beyond symbolic gestures and focus on sustainable, long-term actions that ensure dignity, visibility, and opportunities for persons with disabilities.

He further stated that individuals with disabilities have immense potential and can excel in any field, given the right environment and encouragement. He called upon society to focus on ability, not disability, and to celebrate contributions rather than limitations.

His inspiring words resonated deeply with the audience and set the tone for the day's reflections and celebrations.

Prof. Mohammad Ghazi Shahnawaz, General Secretary, and Dr. Mohd. Faijullah Khan, Secretary, Dr. Zakir Husain Memorial Welfare Society, welcomed the Chief Guest and dignitaries. Prof. Shahnawaz, in his welcome address, highlighted the importance of creating a barrier-free society through the active role of families, institutions, and community stakeholders.

Distinguished guests who joined the function, included: Prof. Neelofar Afzal (Dean, Students' Welfare, JMI); Mr. Imdad Hussain Sabri (Special Educator & Unified Football Coach, USA); Ms. Parween Khan (Former Director, Jamia Nursery School); Ms. Shahla Nigar (Senior Journalist & Anchor, DD News) and Dr. Rama Srivastava (Senior Psychologist & Researcher)

As part of the felicitation ceremony, the following eminent achievers who have broken barriers and inspired countless others were honoured:

- Ms. Tasneem Fatima, Para-Athlete & President, Delhi State Wheelchair Basketball Association
- Mr. Faisal Ashraf Nomani, Helen Keller Awardee & Inclusion Professional
- Mr. Munna Khalid, International Para Badminton Player, World Rank 9
- Shri Iqbal Ahmad (Indian Revenue Service -IT) Assistant commissioner

Their stories of resilience and determination moved the audience and reinforced the day's message of empowerment.

This was followed by Cultural Performances Showcasing Talent and Inclusion
Children and youth presented a series of vibrant performances including: Jamia Tarana; group dances by Junior and Senior categories; collaborative dance by NSERD Foundation; solo performances (song and dance); a musical skit on mobile addiction and a powerful Inclusion-themed finale by the Senior Class.

The programme concluded with a warm vote of thanks by Dr. Mohd. Faijullah Khan, who expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor (in absentia), Registrar, dignitaries, collaborators, teachers, parents, and volunteers. He reiterated the Society's commitment to continuous inclusion and community upliftment.

The event was coordinated by Mr. Mohd. Kaif, Chairman, NSERD Mr. Shitab Elahi, Director Proactive Foundation and Mr. Naseem Ahmed of CGC, while Ms. Farheen Kamal admirably compered the proceedings.

The ceremony ended with the National Anthem in Sign Language, symbolizing unity, respect, and true inclusion.

Prof. Saima Saeed
Chief Public Relations Officer

















