## Office of the Chie Public Relations Officer Jamia Millia Islamia

Press Release

## Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), JMI concludes the Two-Week, Interdisciplinary Refresher Course on Travel, Tourism & Hospitality Management on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

New Delhi, June 20, 2025

The Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC) at Jamia Millia Islamia, Centra University, New Delhi, successfully concluded a two-week Online Refresher Course on "Travel, Tourism & Hospitality Management (Interdisciplinary)" held from June 5 to June 19, 2025. Anchored in the theme *"Tourism Education for Holistic Learning,"* the course brought together a vibrant and intellectually diverse group of educators, policy-makers, and practitioners to engage in critical dialogue on the future of tourism education and industry in India.

What set this programme apart was its conscious blend of perspectives across disciplines and sectors. Inaugurating the event, Prof. Kulwinder Kaur, Honorary Director of MMTTC, welcomed all participants and commended the swift and effective efforts of the Course Coordinators—Prof. Nimit Chowdhary, Head of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, and Dr. Sunayana, Associate Professor in the Department of Management Studies—who curated and managed the course with exceptional commitment and academic rigour.

Over the span of twelve days, the programme saw enthusiastic participation from 117 faculty members representing universities across 20 Indian states, ranging from central and state institutions to deemed and private universities. The sessions were deliberately interdisciplinary, with experts hailing not only from the domain of tourism but also from architecture, history, cultural studies, forest management, and public policy.

A notable academic feature of the course was the participation of senior university administrators and Vice Chancellors, reflecting the strategic significance of tourism education. Among them were Prof. Yogesh Upadhyay, Vice Chancellor of ITM University, Gwalior; Prof. Manoj Dixit, Vice Chancellor of Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner; and Prof. Furqan Qamar, Chief Advisor at Integral University and former Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh. Adding an enriching international perspective were Prof. Athula Gnanapala, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies at Sabaragamuwa University, Sri Lanka, and Prof. Vanessa Gaitree Gowreesunkar from Mauritius, currently with the Indian Institute of Management, Sirmaur.

Equally enriching was the inclusion of senior bureaucrats and industry veterans who brought policy insights and grounded perspectives into the discussions. Dr. Venu Vasudevan, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of Kerala and Chairperson of the Kochi Biennale Foundation, and Dr. Puneet Kumar Goel, IAS, currently Secretary at the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and former Chief Secretary of Goa, shared their governance experience and tourism policy insights. Mr. Suman Billa, IAS, Director General (Tourism) at the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, addressed tourism's future from the central policy lens, while Mr. Vinod Zutshi, IAS (Retd.), former Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, and Mr. Roshan M. Thomas, Director of the Skilling & Capacity Building Division at the Ministry of Tourism, highlighted the evolving priorities in skilling and sustainability.

Industry experts added further depth. Mr. Amaresh Kumar Tiwari, Managing Director of A.T. Seasons and Vacations Travel Pvt. Ltd., brought insights from the global travel business. Chef (Dr.) Parvinder Singh Bali, Director of the School for European Pastry and Culinary Arts, discussed culinary heritage and hospitality education, while Dr. Shweta Chandra, Manager of Learning & Development at Taj Colombo in Sri Lanka, spoke on the role of hoteliers in nation-building. Mr. Rupesh Kumar, CEO of the Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission Society, presented a grassroots view of tourism's potential for rural development and women's empowerment.

Throughout the course, participants explored a wide array of topics, ranging from tourism's role in Gen Z engagement and ecotourism to aviation-tourism synergies, temple architecture, vernacular heritage, sustainable luxury, and innovations in tourism pedagogy. The programme also included thought-provoking discussions on tourism's influence on cultural identity, built heritage, and policy reform, along with group presentations and a structured assessment process.

The closing of the programme was marked by a strong sense of shared purpose and optimism. Participants expressed deep appreciation for the insightful sessions and collaborative spirit of the initiative. This refresher course not only fostered interdisciplinary academic exchange but also bridged the gap between classroom theory and field-level practice—reinforcing MMTTC's commitment to transformative and inclusive capacity-building in higher education.

Prof. Saima Saeed Chief Public Relations Officer











## Tourism as an academic subject

Inherently inter-disciplinary

History/Geography/Commerce/Economics/

Environment/Management/

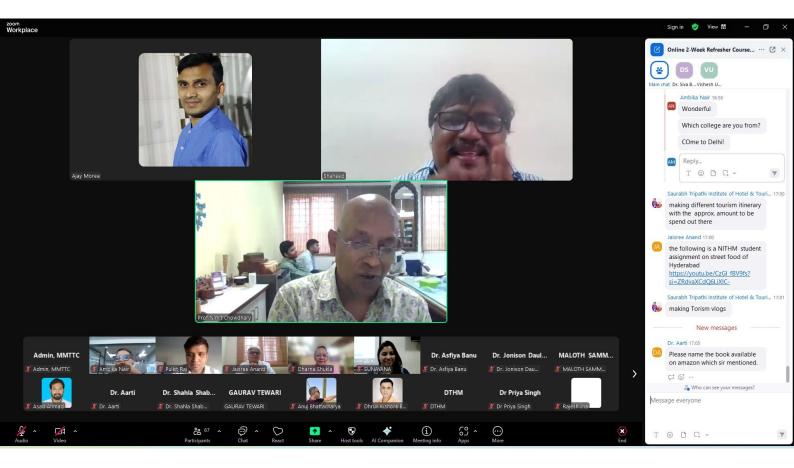
BBA/BTA/BCom/MBA/MTA/MCom

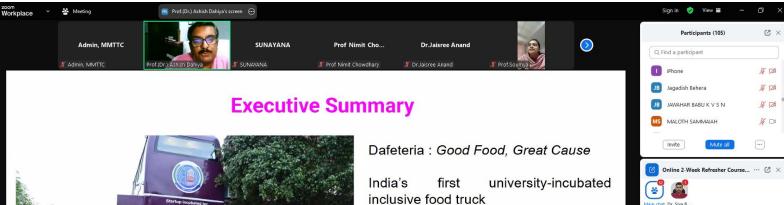
Specific skill sets

More emphasis on theory

Real life situations and case studies







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